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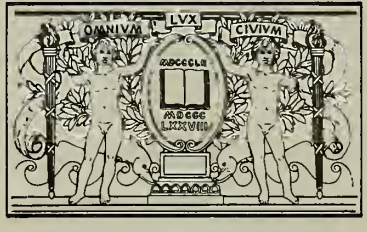
THOMAS SEWELL FAMILY

with

Bogan, McCaffree, Messinger lines

Beverly Sewell Nelson



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This work will cover nine generations of the SEWELL family beginning with the immigrating ancestor, Thomas Sewell. For those of us in the family, the Sewell from which we descend was born in 1751 in Liverpool, England. He came to America in 1773, married Hannah Keller, and settled in Botetourt County, Virginia. His descendants are now coast to coast.

Our ancestors memories are treasures that are lost to us. Two hundred plus years have passed since Thomas Sewell arrived on the American shore, a span of time that held a surviving son in each generation to carry on the name. Two hundred years of change, and of continuity. Our generation binds our forebears to our descendants, just as it binds the the past to the future.

My purpose is to preserve some of our heritage. Perhaps in the telling of our family story, we will see a past that is unique to us, yet common to other families. I want to thank all of you who have contributed information, and my husband for his patience and help. Inadvertent errors may creep in, but are at a minimum, I hope. Please notify me of any corrections or additions.

The research potential of any family is inexhaustible. This will not be a complete account of the descendants of Thomas Sewell. I have followed one son in each generation in detail and have only touched briefly on the brothers and sisters. I will deviate from this format in the sixth generation and mention all nine children and their children, as far as I know. There is a section on the three other lines who make up the grandparents of the nine persons in the sixth generation. These are the BOGAN, McCAFFREE and MESSINGER lines.

Direct all correspondence to:

Beverly Sewell Nelson
1110 Northwest Second Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

SEWELL

First Generation

In 1773, Thomas Sewell was an apprenticed twenty-two year old bookkeeper. He boarded the ship, Elizabeth, in London to sail to Virginia. Thomas was just one of many young, single trained men from various parts of England who sailed together. Thomas Sewell was born in Liverpool, but he had moved to Westminster, the seat of British government, to work. He signed an indenture agreement to become a servant in Virginia. He served his master four years, with little or no pay, but his master paid for his voyage across the Atlantic. It is not known where, or for whom, Thomas worked on his arrival in Virginia.

PASSENGERS TO AMERICA
EMIGRANTS FROM ENGLAND.

Transcribed by GERALD FOTHERGILL, Esq., of New Wandsworth, London, England, and communicated by the Committee on English Research.

THE following lists of emigrants were discovered by Gerald Fothergill, Esq., of London, England, among Treasury Records in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, and were secured for REGISTER publication by the Society's Committee on English Research. The lists comprise about six thousand names.

PORT OF LONDON, 11 TO 18 DEC. 1773.

Name	*Age*	*Occupation*	*From*	*Ship*	*To*	*As a*
Thos Ramsey	17	Gentleman	Edingboro	Eagle	Jamiaca	Planter
John Harlow	30	"	London	Aiadne	Dominica	"
Will[m] Thomas Esq[r]	—	refused to give any answer				
W. H. Ricketts	19	Gentleman	Southampton	Esther	Jamiaca	Planter
H. Ferguson	20	"	Aberdeen	"	"	"
Will Clark	22	Baker	Surrey	"	"	for Employment
Will Shillingford	18	Gentleman	Hertfordshire	"	"	going to his Father
M. A. Warwall	32	Bookkeeper	London	La Soy Plant	Dominica	for Employment
John Hill	24	Baker	"	Elizabeth	Virginia	Indented Ser[vt] for four years
Will[m] Smith	42	Taylor	Surry	"	"	" " " " "
Will[m] Morgan	31	Husbandman	Dublin	"	"	" " " " "
Thos Weatherley	21	Edge tool Maker	Kent	"	"	" " " " "
S. Wetherell	31	Bricklayer	Lincolnshire	"	"	" " " " "
Thos Hanham	21	Plaisterer	London	"	"	" " " " "
John Turner	25	Cordwainer	"	"	"	" " " " "
Edw[d] Deneau	45	Schoolmaster	Eaton	"	"	" " " " "
John Howard	25	Smith	Surry	"	"	" " " " "
Aaron Palpernan	29	Bookkeeper	Bucks	"	"	" " " " "
John Carry	24	Stone Mason	Fifeshire	"	"	" " " " "
Will[m] Emmins	27	Husbandman	Lincoln	"	"	" " " " "
Tho[s] Sewell	22	Bookkeeper	Westminster	"	"	" " " " "
Tho's Draper	22	Silk Dyer	London	"	"	" " " " "

Three years after Thomas arrived from England, he turned against his King and joined the Continental Army on August 5, 1776. At the time of his enlistment, Thomas was living in Botetourt County, Virginia, between the Great River Road on the north side of the James River, and Purgatory Creek. (See map of Virginia and the Botetourt County map.) This county is in west central Virginia, near Natural Bridge. Interstate #81 now runs through the county, from Knoxville, Tennessee through the Allegheny Mountains on its way to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Thomas was placed in a company of men from this county which was organized in 1776 and became a part of the Twelfth Virginia Regiment. Thomas was soon appointed corporal and a clerk, probably because of his bookkeeping skills. Later, he was promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant, which placed him in charge of munitions and supplies. While serving as Quartermaster, Thomas also became attached to the Fourth, Eighth, and Tenth Virginia Regiments.

Even though Thomas was officially a clerk, he participated in the Battle of Germantown (outside of Philadelphia) on October 4, 1777. Washington's Army was unsuccessful in the attack against the British, who were in full dress. Washington then took his starving army to Valley Forge for the winter. (See Company Muster Roll for Thomas Sewell's pay record.) The Americans attacked the British at the Monmouth County Courthouse June 28, 1778. Thomas was in this battle that is famous for the heroine, Molly Pitcher.

During his third year in the army, Thomas was honorably discharged on November 5, 1778, and he returned to farming. Thomas was registered for potential recruitment in the Botetourt County Militia in 1782 and 1783, but his company was not called upon to serve as regular soldiers during this period.

Thomas settled in the eastern corner of Botetourt County, Virginia, farming many acres near the headwaters of Purgatory Creek. Although the area in western Virginia surrounding the James River often features high, steep hills, such as Purgatory Mountain, parcels of flatter land in the river and creek valleys were relatively adaptable to farming.

About 1780, Thomas married Hannah Keller. The Kellers, a large family, had been one of the original Pennsylvania-German families to spread south into the higher Shenandoah Valley and west into present-day West Virginia in the 1770's.

SEWELL First Generation

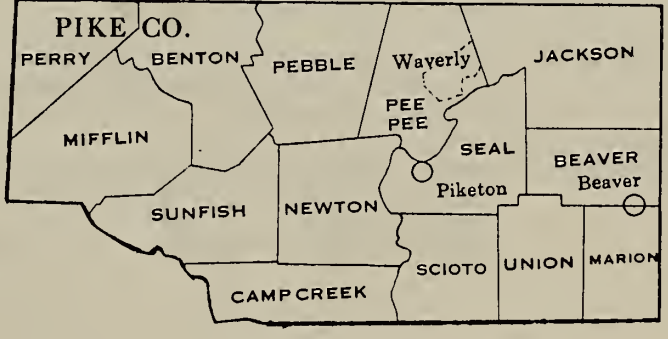
In 1783, Thomas owned two horses, five cattle and no slaves. On September 2, 1786 Thomas Sewell and Thomas Ferguson were bound as witnesses against William Hudson, William Hudson, Jr., Christopher Husk, William Cherry and Elias McCreary. The charge against the men isn't stated. On June 11, 1799 Thomas Sewell and Baker Davidson were appointed as Surveyors of the Highway.

Between 1781 and 1805, Thomas and Hannah Sewell raised ten children. Their house burned down in 1786, and destroyed many of their possessions, including two pounds, nineteen shillings in paper money. This was refunded, with interest, to Thomas by a special Act of the Virginia Legislature in 1790. Thomas served as a schoolmaster in addition to farming during this time.

The Sewell family, like other families on the frontier, were getting anxious to move farther westward. In 1812, Thomas and Hannah sold their 688 acres in Botetourt County for $1,800 and headed northwest into Kanawha County, West Virginia. (A copy of the indenture deed follows.) Roads through the mountains followed animal and Indian trails, and travelers saw much beauty as they went. The trip could be a lonely one, but they could meet others and share information on fording rivers or on the location of operating ferries on the larger rivers.

The Sewells weren't in Kanawha County very long. They moved to Pike County, Ohio about 1820. Pike County was formed in 1815. They could raft or follow the Kanawha River to the Ohio River. A fast trip of seventy or eighty miles down the Ohio would bring them to the Sciota River. Here their raft could be pulled upstream thirty miles to Waverly, Ohio in Pike County. Most of the land in Pike County was hilly and wooded, except the flat plain of the Sciota River Valley. (See Ohio map.)

PIKE COUNTY, OHIO MAP



Most of the children of Thomas and Hannah had been married in Virginia and they traveled to Ohio with the rest of the family. The many sons of Thomas and Hannah settled in the valley between Piketon and Waverly, and established farming operations.

The pioneer settler was a farmer, as the family had to be fed. Subsequent settlers would build the mills and the trading posts. A log cabin could be constructed in about three days after the lumber had been collected. Upon arriving in an area not previously occupied, a temporary shelter would be built. Before the log cabin, a 'half-faced' camp was built choosing two trees about fourteen feet apart which were topped and trimmed to serve as back posts. Two forked saplings were driven in the ground opposite the two trees. Then logs were laid one on top of the other to form three sides that were then chinked with mud or clay. The open front was where the fire was built for heat and cooking. The remainder of the open side was the door for entering, and for light. Plentiful game, berries and herbs and nearby water were essential in deciding where to locate a half-faced camp or log cabin.

Thomas and Hannah Sewell were the parents of ten children:

1: William Sewell — born ca 1781 Botetourt Co., Va.
married ca 1807 to Sarah Ward
died 1838 in Laketon, Indiana

2: Joseph Sewell — born 1782 Botetourt Co., Va.
married ca 1811 to Mary ---
died March 3 or 6, 1847 Pike Co., Ohio

3: James Sewell — born January 20, 1787 botetourt Co., Va.
married 1st Feb. 2, 1808 to Fannie McCoy
died Sept. 12, 1850 Fountain Co., Ind.

4: Anna Sewell — born 1790 Botetourt Co., Va.
married May 5 or 18, 1809
to William Deacon
died: no record

5: Sarah Sewell — born 1792 Botetourt Co., Va.
married July 28, 1811 to Henry Albright
died: no record

6: David Sewell — born 1798 Botetourt Co., Va.
married May 11, 1820 to Rachel Goodwin
died February 2, 1851
Indianapolis, Mahaska Co., Iowa

7: Elijah Sewell born 1802 Botetourt Co., Va.
married 1st: Nancy Goodwin Feb. 12, 1821
2nd: Emily Shoemaker Nov. 30, 1848
died: no record

8: Thomas Sewell Jr. born 1805 Botetourt Co., Va.
married March 8, 1829 to Letitia Henry
died : no record

9: John Sewell living in Indiana 1824

10: Peter Sewell living in Indiana in 1824

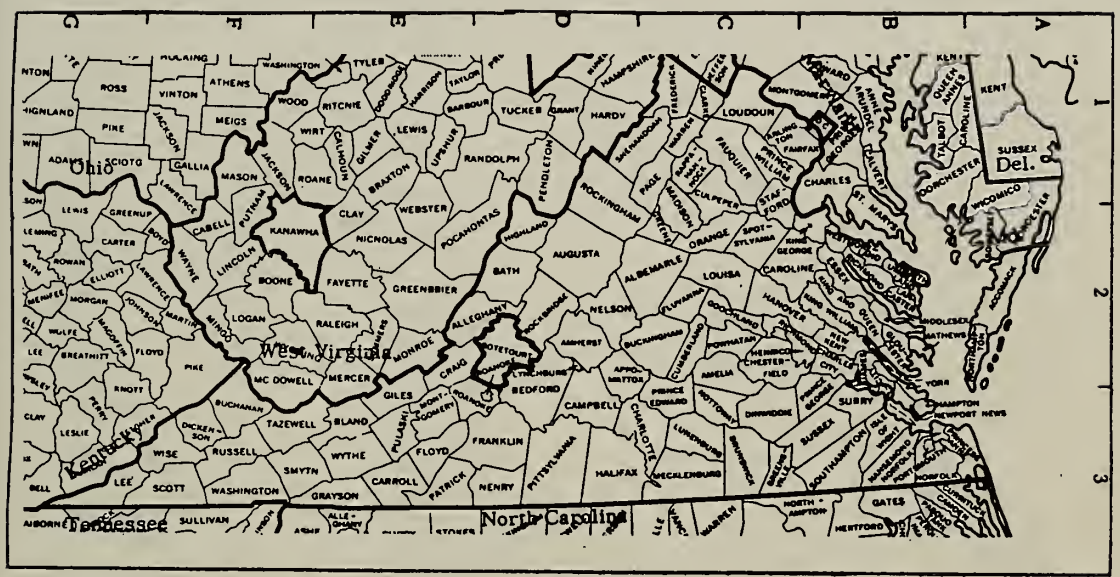
William, Joseph, James's first marriage, Anna and Sarah were married in Virginia. James's second marriage occurred in Indiana. Elijah, Thomas jr., and John married in Ohio. Thomas Jr.'s second marriage was in Indiana.

Two of the youngest sons, David and Elijah, married two Goodwin sisters, in Ohio in 1829 and 1821. The Goodwins had also traveled from Virginia to Ohio. During this period of time, Hannah Sewell died. Thomas was deaf and nearly blind by the 1810's. On his pension application on June 21, 1820 he says he has no family, but Joseph never left Pike County, and it was later that the rest of the sons made their way to Indiana. Because Thomas was a veteran, he was eligible for pension payments. After the U.S. Congress increased payments to veterans by an Act of 1818, Thomas applied for funds. Because he had lost his army discharge papers, and was not listed as a former soldier in government records, Thomas was forced to make a sworn statement in local court stating his military record. (See pages from the National Archives pertaining to his application for pension payments in 1819 and 1820.) Elijah Sewell, as administrator of Thomas's estate, petitioned the Fountain County, Indiana Court in March 1860 for Thomas's $96.00 final voucher pension payment. (Note this is twenty-six years after Thomas died.)

Thomas Sewell's children and grandchildren heard rumors of even better land to the north, and they were eager to move on. Although James, William, Thomas Jr., David, Elijah and Joseph lived very close to each other in Pike County in the 1820's the family soon split up and went their separate ways. Peter and John had already left for Indiana in the 1810's, and several of William's children settled in Marion

County,Indiana in the 1830's. Since both Hannah and Thomas died at Piketon in Pike County, Ohio, it is assumed they are buried there.

MAP OF THE VIRGINIAS SHOWING BOTETOURT AND KANAWHA COUNTIES



In 1607 Captain James Smith arrived on the northwest shore of the James River in Virginia, on the site of present-day Jamestown. Virginia became a royal colony in 1624. From then until 1776 when it announced its independence, it was in almost constant trouble with the crown. Nine other states preceded Virginia into the Union when she entered in 1778. Botetourt County was formed from Augusta County in 1769. West Virginia did not come into existence until 1863. It had always been part of Virginia, although the two sections didn't have much in common, mainly because of the rugged Allegheny Mountains. Most of the counties of West Virginia were settled years before they were organized. Kanawha County was created in 1788. The Sewells arrived there in 1812.

SEWELL First Generation

BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Scale 1:150,000

Contour interval 40 meters
(40 meters = 131.2 feet)

MUSTER ROLL OF THOMAS SEWELL

S. | 12 | Va.

Thos Sewell

Sgt., { Capt. Andrew Wallace's Co. of the 12th Virginia Reg't commanded by Col. James Wood.

(Revolutionary War.)

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above for the month

of Mar., 1778.

Roll dated Valley Forge Apr. 3, 1778.

Appointed ....., 17 .

Commissioned ....., 17 .

Enlisted ....., 17 .

Term of enlistment 3 Yrs.

Time since last muster or enlistment .....

Alterations since last muster .....

Casualties .....

Remarks: Apptd. 2 M. Sgt. 1st Mar., 1778.

D. L. Davis

(548) Copyist.

S | 12 | Va.

Thos Sewell

2 M.S., { 12th Virginia Reg't, commanded by Col. James Wood.

(Revolutionary War.)

Appears on

General Pay Abstract

of the organization named above for the month

of May, 1778.

Commissioned or appointed ....., 17 .

Commencement of time ....., 17 .

Commencement of pay May 1, 17 .

To what time paid ....., 17 .

Pay per month 9 Dols.

Time of service 1 mo

Whole time of service .....

Subsistence .....

Amount of pay due £2.14s = 9 Dols.

Amt. of pay and subsistence .....

Pay due to sick, absent .....

Casualties .....

Remarks: .....

(547) Copyist.

1812 Sale of land by Thomas Sewell to David Roland

THIS INDENTURE (typed as written)

Made this ninth day of Novr' in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twelve between Thomas Sewill and Hannah his wife of the County of Botetourt and State of Virginia of the one part and David Roland of the County and State aforesaid.

WITNESSETH

that for and in consideration of the sum of eighteen hund'd dollars to them in hand paid at the sealing and delivery of these presents hath sold bargained and confirmed unto the said David Roland his heirs or assigns two certain tracts or parcells of land containing by survey Six hundred and eighty eight acres be the same more or less situated on the head waters of Purgatory Creek joining the lands of Wm. Wallace, John Olverson & Wm. Wilson & George Taylor and bounded as follows, Viz,

Bartons old tract begineth at a white oak and two black oaks running north fifty five ds, East one hundred & twenty poles to a hickory Sugar tree thence W. twenty D; E. ninety poles to a Spanish oak North Sixty D West sixty four poles to a hickory on a barren hill south sixty D. West Sixty poles to a wallnut and black oak South twenty five degrees West one hundred and forty poles to two oaks corner to Kelleys now Wm. Wallaces and South fifty D.E. fifty poles to the beginning: In this tract by survey is ninety acres.

Second Tract containing five hundred and ninety acres.

Begineth at a hickory corner to the land of John Olverson and runnith thence the lines of the same S. seventy nine and one half D. West ninety two poles to a white oak corner to the same and thence leaving the same N. nine degrees East Seventy five poles to two red oaks & a hickory on a line of the land formerly Barton then with the lines of the same North twenty three D. East thirty six poles to a dogwood by where a Spanish oak stood N. sixty two West eighty poles to two black oaks and a hickory sapling S. fifty nine D. West sixty four poles to a white wallnut Sugar tree and black oak N twenty two and half D. West one hundred and fourteen poles to a white oak N. four D. E. nineteen poles to an ash and two white oaks N thirty eight west sixty two poles to three black oaks N forty D. E. one hundred and thirty four poles crossing Nettle run to a locust and hickory by the same N. sixty six E one hundred and forty six poles three duble and two single white oaks N ten D. E. forty one poles to two white oaks corner to said grant South twenty four D. West thirty six poles to two pines South thirty four D East sixty five poles to two pines on a line of Nich's Longs survey of 500 acres and thence S five D west four hundred and sixty one poles to the beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

the said granted land and premises together with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said David Roland his heirs or assigns forever and the said Thomas Sewill and Hannah his wife for themselves their Executors and administrators the title of said land and all and singular the premices in fee simple unto the said Roland his heirs Executors administrators or assigns shall and will forever warrant and defend by these presents from themselves and every other person or persons whatsoever

In witness whereof the said Thomas Sewil and Hannah his wife hath hereunto sett their hands and affixed their seals the day and year above written --

Signed sealed & deliv'd in presence of

Thomas Sewill (Seal)

Moses T. Cook
Jas. Lockhard
John H. Dennis

Hannah Sewill (Seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia
to Matthew Harvey and James Lockhart, Gentlemen Justices of Botetourt County
Greetings:

Whereas Thomas Sewill and Hannah his wife by their indenture of bargain and sale dated the 9th day of November in the year of our Lord 1812 have sold and conveyed to David Rowland the fee simple estate of two tracts of land containing six hundrd and eighty eight acres of land with its appurtenances lying and being in Botetourt County and whereas the said Hannah Sewill cannot conveniently travel to our court of said County to make acknowledgement which the said Indenture therefore we do give unto you or two or more of you power to go to the said Hannah Sewill and receive acknowledgement which the said Hannah Sewill shall be willing to make before the conveyance aforesaid contained in said indenture which is hereto annexed and We do therefore command you that you personally go to said Hannah Sewill and receive acknowledgement of the same and examine her privily and apart from the said Thomas Sewill her husband whether she is willing the same should be recorded in our Court of said County of Botetourt and when you have received her acknowledgement and examined her aforesaid that you distinctly and openly certify as thereto to our justices of our ad, Court sending them there also the said Indenture and this writ

Witness Henry Bowyer Clerk of said Court the 12th day of Nov. 1812 in the 37th year of our foundation.

H. Bowyer D. C.

We the subscribers pursuant to the above Dedimus to us directed do certify the Gentlemen Justice of Botetourt County that we personally went to the said Hannah Sewill and examined her privily and apart from the said Thomas Sewill her husband and do certify that she acknowledged the said Indenture to David Rowland and that she is willing such her acknowledgement may be recorded in the County aforesaid

Given under our hand and seal this __ day __ 1812

Matthew Harvey (seal)
Jas Lockhart (seal)

At Botetourt August Court 1813

This deed of Bargain and Sale was proven in Court by the oaths of John H. Dennis James Lockhart and Moses F. Cook. Witnesses thereto subscribed also commission and certificate of the wifes privy examination & c., was returned to Court which with the Deed is ordered to be recorded

A Copy Teste H. Bowyer D. C.

A Copy Teste; from Deed Book
No. 11, page 185
Records of Botetourt County, Virginia

THOMAS SEWELL'S PENSION APPLICATION from the National Archives (typed as written)

State of Ohio
Pike County

On this 25th day of October 1819 Before me the Subscriber President Judge of the Eighth District of the Court of Common Pleas for the state of Ohio personally appeared Thomas Sewell aged sixty - eight years , now resident in Pike County in the said district who, being duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain provision made by the late Act of Congress Entitled an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War that the said Thomas Sewell Enlisted in the Botetourt County State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain William McKee (on the 5th day of August 1776) of the County of Rockbridge & State of Virg in the Twelfth Virg regim commanded by Capt. James Wood I was Shortly after transferred to Capt Andrew Wallaces Company until the valey forge camp & broke up again on the march to Monmouth I was taken from this service by Order of General Scott to serve as a clerk to John Knights Company for the Virg line here I was until discharged on the 5th of Nov 1778 in which time was in Germantown and Monmouth Battles allthough clerking I was in a Platoon to Battle at Both places and that he is in Reduced Circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for Support and that he has no other Evidence now in his power of his said Service I had an Honorable Discharge and a good Character from Col John Nowell and every Capt in the 12th Regim which I sent Down by Col McKee to Obtain amount of the Depreciation of the Pay was allow to the Soldiers I think Col Magruther was at the Head of that Department and those papers never Returned to me again then my Claim was Disputed because i was not in the Muster Rolls after I was taken out of the Ranks but Captains Bowin and Boyers were Present at the time my Claim had like to be rejected and then that I faithfully discharged my Duty in the Diferent Stations in which I was placed. I know of Three Gentlemen living who can testify to Services but my age and Inabilities forbids me from traveling to them. I will name them Col Henry Bowyer Clerk of the County and Superior Court in Botetourt who was an Adjutant and Brought me the Regiments order to the QM Sarg place. W. Vincent Tapp now clerk of the Mayors Court in Sta-town Virga He was Sargent Major at that time V.M. james B--- of Botetourt, we were discharged together he enlisted with me & served in the Same Company He went home but I continued sometime for this in my Clerkship I will Write these three men and obtain Certificates of Proof or as many of them as are yet alive. Two years ago they were all living. I was discharged at Robinsons Farm on Hudson River, State of new york

Sworn before me this
-- day of October 1819
Ezra ---Bd.

State of Ohio Pike County for this may certify that
Thomas Sewell to me personally known on the day and
year first above mentioned made --- oath that the matters
and things set forth in the above statement were true and that
he did perform the services therein mentioned and believes
himself --- to the pronoun of the law for the relief of officers
and Soldiers who served in the late revolutionary war.
I further certify that he is in reduced circumstances and
requires the assistance of his country for his support and
that he has not any further evidence of his services than is
set forth. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my
hand this 23rd day of October 1819

Ezra ---------- President Judge of the 8th circuit of the courts

THOMAS SEWELL'S PENSION APPLICATION from the National Archives (typed as written)

State of Ohio, Pike Court of Common Pleas of the term of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundrd and twenty .

On this twenty first day of June 1820 personally appeared in Open Court being a court of record for Said County Thomas Sewell aged sixty nine years, a resident in Pike County Ohio aforesaid who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his Oath declare that he Served in the revolutionary War as following in the 12th Virginia Regiment first in Captain William McKees and lastly in Captain Andrew Wallaces Company in Said Regiment Commanded by Colonels James Woods in General Scotts Brigade as set forth in my former Declaration on which I received a Certificate dated on the 23th day of October 1819 and was entitled thereby to draw a payment this 4th day of March 1820 but it did not come to hand untill that time expired and funds in that department being exhausted when I applied I was informed I Could not draw untill next draw day but Could trade it in any of the Stores, the sort of trade did not suit my wants, and those on whose bounty I lived were willing to wait with me untill next draw day So I have got nothing yet. the number of the Certificate I received is 16052 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States 18th of March 1818 , and that I have nott Since that time by gift Sale or Any part thereof with intent thereby to diminish it as to bring myself into the provisions of an act of congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval Service of the States in the revolutionary War passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have now, neither has any person in trust for the property or Security Contract or debts due to me nor have I any income Other than what is Contained in the Schedule herewith annexed and by me Subscribed. I have no real estate, neither have I a living least of any description. I have a waggon which I brought from Virginia, which I have been trying to Sell for a year back but can get no offer of anything for it. I have an Olde Saddle and an old ax. my Occupation was since I left the Army that of farming while I was able. Some years back I Supported myself by teaching Children As a school master but am deprived of that by deafness and dullness of Light. I have no family but Thank God all that know me make me welcome to eat and Sleep in their beds hitherto I am about fourteen dollars in debt for some small articles of clothing..

Signed
Thomas Sewell

Sworn to and Declared in Open Court this 21st Day of June 1820
State of Ohio Pike Co.
etc. Joseph Sebastion Clark

MAP OF OHIO SHOWING LOCATION OF PIKE COUNTY

Elijah Sewell's petition in Fountain County, Indiana for Thomas Sewell's final pension voucher.

STATE OF Indiana
County of Fountain } ss.

BE IT KNOWN, that before me Jacob Haas a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Elijah Sewell

Administrator of Thomas Sewell deceased, and made oath in due form of law that he is Administrator of Thomas Sewell deceased the identical person who was a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, at the rate of ninety six dollars cents per annum, and is now dead, to whom a certificate of pension was issued, which is ~~here with returned or~~ mislaid and lost.

~~That she had not intermarried but continued the widow of~~

That the said deceased pensioner resided in the County of Pike in the State of Ohio for the space of Twenty years before his death, and that previous thereto he resided in Bottetour 1 State of Virginia that he died on the 13th day of October in the year of our Lord 1834 that no widow now exists and only the following named children viz:

Elijah Sewell and Sarah Albright

Sworn to and subscribed on this 2d day of March in the year of our Lord 1860, before me

Jacob Haas Justice of the Peace.

Elijah Sewell Adm

Know all men by these presents, That I, Elijah Sewell

Administrator of Thomas Sewell

deceased Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, at the rate of ninety six dollars cents per annum, do hereby constitute and appoint Hon. James Wilson of Washington, D. C., my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name and stead to demand and receive from the Treasury of the United States, paying pensions at Washington, D. C., the usual warrant or certificate of this said pension from the day of 18 , to the 13th day of October 1834

Witness hand and seal this

2d day of March 1860.

Elijah Sewell Adm [L. S.] [L. S.] [L. S.] [L. S.] [L. S.] [L. S.]

Attest: A. J. Frankenfield
L. Nebeker

William Sewell, the first child born to Thomas and Hannah Keller Sewell, was born in Botetourt County, Virginia in 1781. He was a farmer. He married Sarah Ward, whose parents are unknown to us at this time, about 1807. Sarah was born December 10, 1791. Two children, Thomas Jefferson Sewell and John D. Sewell were born to them in Botetourt County. When William was 31 years old, in 1812, William, Sarah, and the two sons moved with his parents and several brothers to Kanawha County, West Virginia. More sons were born here, at least Elisha and Elijah, if not others. The places of birth for the other children is not known for sure.

Children of William and Sarah Ward Sewell:

1: Thomas Jefferson Sewell born March 11, 1808 Botetourt County, Virginia
married August 23, 1829 to Margaret Henry Pike Co., Ohio
died November 19, 1882 Waverly Bremer County, Iowa

2: John D. Sewell born Botetourt County, Va.
no further information

3: William Sewell born June 15, 1819 Va. or W. Va.
married 2nd Sarah Letitia Brown March 31, 1864 Wabash Co., Ind.
died October 15, 1901 at Ijamsville, Wabash Co., Indiana

4: Elisha Sewell born Kanawha County, West Virginia
married --- Sarah Catherine ---
died probably in Iowa

5: Elijah Sewell born Kanawha County, West Virginia
married --- Julia ---
died August 9, 1894 Poweltown, Cal.

6: Isaac Sewell no further information

7: Belinda Sewell born --
married Thomas Desper
died probably Indiana

8: Sarah Sewell — born --
married 1. Arthur E. Williams
2. James Crossley
died probably Indiana

9: a daughter — married --- Bell, had 3 children
no further information

10: and 11: two additional children who died while young, birth order unknown.

Pike County, Ohio was opened for settlement as part of the Virginia Military District in 1784, and it was made a county in 1815. The Sewells lived here for a period of time. While they lived here, Thomas Jefferson Sewell married Margaret Henry in 1829.

Due to the large migration from Kentucky, Indiana was settled primarily from the south to the north, rather than from east to west. News of the bountiful and wooded lands traveled back south, and more pioneers poured in. The Sewells in Pike County, Ohio left to go to other frontiers. William and Sarah and some of their children settled in Marion County, Indiana in the 1830's. During this decade, James Sewell, William's brother, settled in Fountain County, Indiana, and many of James's children took up homesteads in Fountain County. Thomas Jr. also migrated west in the 1830's. His exact whereabouts is unknown. Around 1834 David Sewell and his family moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, about ten miles from James's and Elijah's families in western Indiana. Only Joseph stayed in Pike County, Ohio, where Thomas and Hannah, their parents, had died. Joseph died there in 1847.

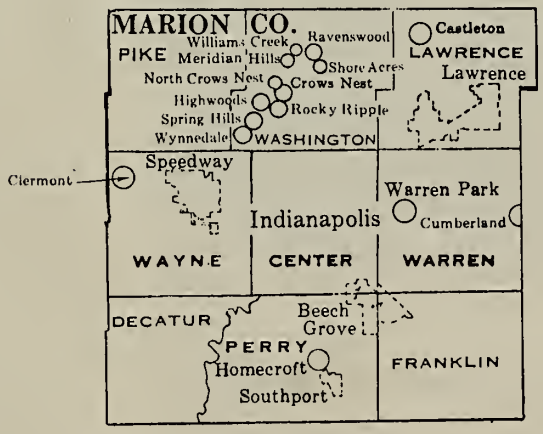
Marion County, Indiana was formed in 1822. Indianapolis is the county seat, incorporated in 1836. It is situated in a rich farming region on the White River. William and Sarah lived in the county while Indianapolis was still a village.

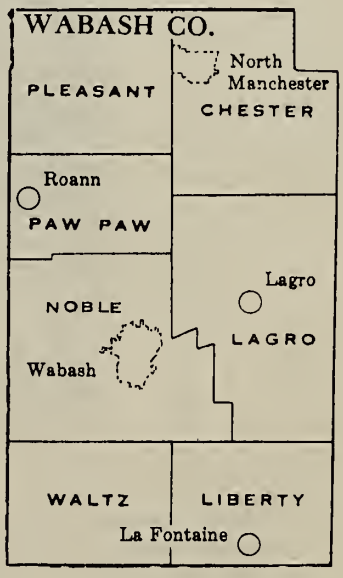
Not satisfied to stay in the Indianapolis area, William had in mind he would perhaps like what he had heard about the Chicago area. He made the trip, and seeing all the swampy, low ground thereabouts, he returned to his family in Marion County. On his way back, he took a liking to an area in Wabash County, Indiana where he bought a section of land just south of present day Laketon, near Ijamsville. The Eel River runs through the north part of the section.

William moved his family there, and being a millwright, in due time he started to build a dam for a grist mill on the Eel. About 1838 he went out one evening to inspect the progress of the days work, and walking across, slipped, and caught his foot in the pilings, and drowned. A descendant who still lives in the area says William's burial place is unknown, although there is a possibility he was taken back to Indianapolis to Crownhill Cemetery. It is more likely that he is buried in an unmarked place near Ijamsville.

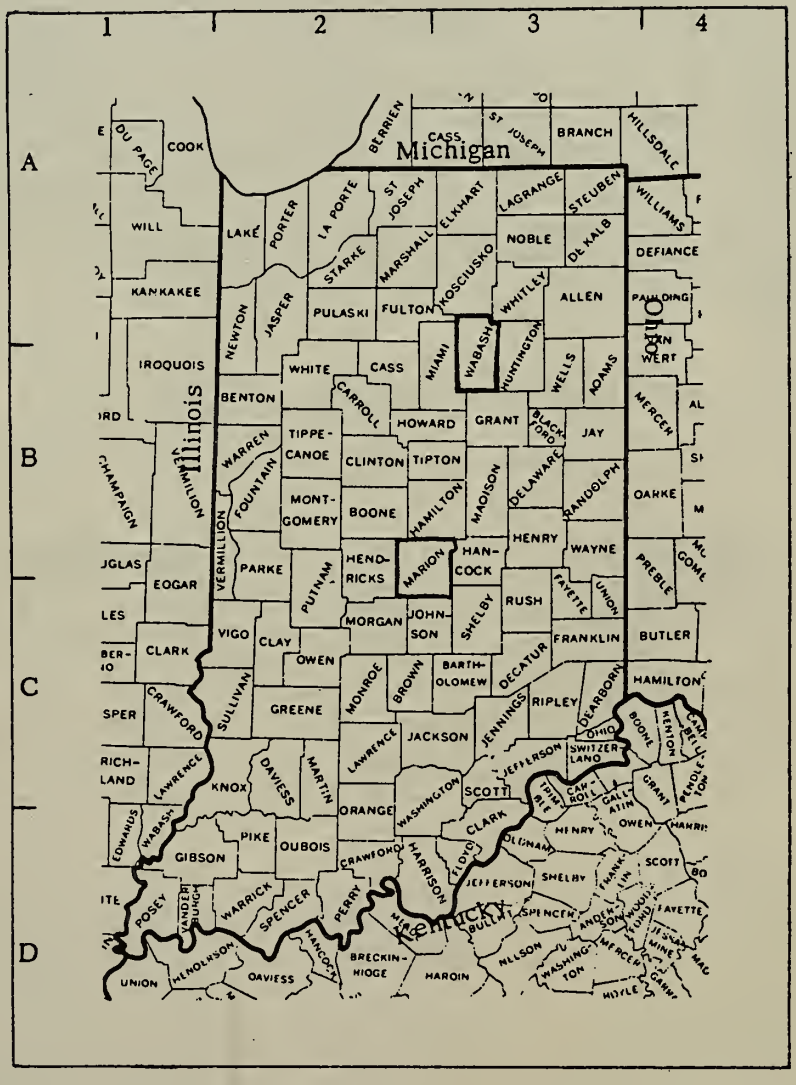
Sarah was 47 years old when William died and she had five children under twenty years old still at home with her. In 1845, she sold 155 acres in Wabash County to William H. Sholtey. Not being able to write her name, she signed the deal with an "X". Sarah lived on in Pleasant Township, Wabash County, Indiana until her death February 18, 1856. She is probably buried at Alger Cemetery in Paw Paw Township.

MARION AND WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA MAPS





INDIANA STATE MAP SHOWING MARION AND WABASH COUNTIES



THOMAS JEFFERSON SEWELL AND MARGARET HENRY SEWELL

Thomas Jefferson Sewell was born March 11, 1808 the first child of William and Sarah Ward Sewell in Botetourt County, Virginia. Thomas Jefferson was president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. The country more than doubled in size with the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon. William and Sarah must have been admirers of this scholar, inventor and president to name their third child, and third son, for him.

SEWELL Third Generation

Thomas Jefferson Sewell was eighteen years old when his parents and other members of the family left Virginia and settled in Pike County, Ohio. He was married here in 1829 to Miss Margaret Henry. Margaret was born in Ohio, but her father's name is unknown. Thomas and Margaret were blessed with fourteen children, all of whom were born in Indiana. They were in Marion County in 1830, then they went to Hamilton County for six years, then to Boone County in Indiana. While in Hamilton County, they became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Children of Thomas Jefferson Sewell and Margaret Henry Sewell

1: Allen Sewell — born May 9, 1830 Marion Co., Indiana
married March 18, 1852
to Lydia Mullins
died October 4, 1911 Bremer Co., Iowa

2: Henry Sewell — born July 27, 1831 Indiana
died March 6, 1844 Indiana

3: William Sewell — born March 10, 1833 Indiana
married December 17, 1851
to Minerva Ann Bogan in Indiana
died November 9, 1917 Shell Rock, Iowa

4: Virginia Sewell — born January 11, 1835 Indiana
died August 29, 1843 Indiana

5: Samuel Sewell — born March 11, 1836 Boone Co., Indiana
married 1856 Bremer Co., Iowa
to Anna Katherine Hursh
2nd Sarah McElhaney Dec.9,1860
died January 10, 1917 Bremer County, Ia.

6. Sarah Sewell — born June 12, 1837 Boone Co., Ind.
died September 11, 1844 Indiana

7: Mary Elizabeth Sewell — born June 7, 1839 Indiana
married September 7, 1856
to A.W. Mullen
died Baxter Springs, Kansas

SEWELL Third Generation

8: Thomas J. Sewell Jr. born April 6, 1841 Indiana
married Esther High in 1863
died May 17, 1866

9: Twin of Thomas died at birth April 6, 1841

10: Sylvester Sewell born January 9, 1843 Indiana
married Sarah Galbraith January 6, 1867
probably married twice
died between 1906 and 1912 in California

11: Margaret Letitia Sewell born August 20, 1844 Indiana
married March 7, 1864 to George Ellis
died February 6, 1872 Waverly, Iowa

12: a daughter name unknown born April 11, 1846 Indiana
nothing further known

13: James Sewell born November 7, 1848 Indiana
married Geneva Mae Beals October 27, 1886
died 1912 state of Washington

14: a son name unknown born April 1852

Organized white settlement of Iowa began in 1832 when the Black Hawk land was purchased by the U. S. Government. Traveling by land was not expensive, but it would take a few weeks to go across a couple of states. In the 1850's it was necessary to wait in line three days to board a ferry to cross the Mississippi River into Iowa. The fertile soil west of the Mississippi was covered with grasses as high as a man's head.

The survey of public land in Iowa started in 1836 when land offices were established in Dubuque and Burlington. The first surveyors of this uninhabited (by the white man) country made field notes detailing "trails" or "roads". Platting these "roads" origin and destination, they all pass by, or converge on, one special location: the Big Woods in Bremer County. Here were 10,000 acres of timber, five miles

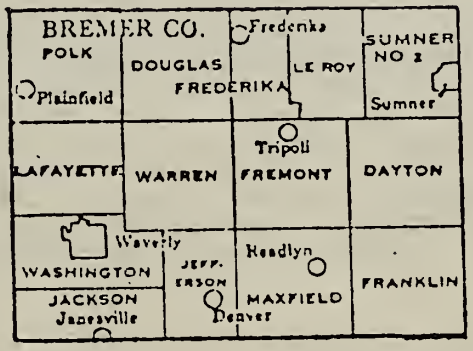
across in any direction, all on hilly land outside the flood plain. Every March whole villages of Indian tribes came in single file to tap the hard sugar maple trees. The Indians only other source for sweets was wild honey. In 1849, when only eleven other white families were in the county, a man and his sons tapped four hundred maple trees, and made eleven hundred pounds of sugar which they sold for six cents a pound. A hike southwest from the Big Woods is the Turkey Foot Forks, where the Cedar River, the Shell Rock River, and the West Fork of the Cedar River junction in a shape that reminded the Indians of a wild turkey footprint in the mud. There was excellent hunting and fishing here. (See the map showing the Big Woods and Turkey Foot Forks.)

The Cedar River was so named for the large groves of Red Cedar trees along its banks. On the Cedar River was a natural ford at a place called the Falls, now called Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk County. There was a rocky bottom with shallow water and both banks were clear of trees. As the county became settled, hundreds of miles of fence posts were made from the durable wood of the cedar trees. Cedar wood was also desired for the pilings to build bridges across the streams, so by 1900 few cedar trees remained.

Iowa became a state in 1846, and Bremer County was formed in 1851. Bremer County is one of the smallest counties in the state, only eighteen miles wide from north to south, and twenty-four miles long from east to west. When the counties were being organized in northern Iowa, Zimri Streeter (the father of Bess Streeter Aldrich) was working for Black Hawk County and secured a row of congressional townships on the northern edge for them, that should have belonged to Bremer County. John T. Barrick and his men who were forming Bremer County were unaware of the maneuvering until it was too late. Mr. Barrick wanted Janesville as the county seat, but he was unsuccessful at that, too.

The first white settler in Jackson Township, Bremer County, Iowa was Ezra G. Allen and J.T. Barrick in 1852. This township is located in the southwestern corner of the county. It is three miles wide by eight miles long, containing only 15,360 acres. Two rivers flow through the township, the Shell Rock River and the Cedar River. The soil is dark loam and is inclined to be sandy in places. In

1883 it was written that it was well timbered and contained many excellent farms.



On April 27, 1853 Thomas Jefferson Sewell and Margaret Henry Sewell arrived in Jackson Township of Bremer County, Iowa after a one month long trip overland with teams of horses. Traveling with them, in addition to the younger children, were their married sons, Allen and his wife Lydia, and William and his wife Minerva. The rest of the children would marry in Bremer County.

Thomas and Margaret spent one year in a log cabin. Allen and William and their wives shared a log cabin that first winter. Thomas had an original land grant in Section 35. He sold this and bought in Section 21 from Abraham Meyer on February 13, 1854. He paid $344. Here they made their home until the spring of 1882 when they moved to Waverly. Thomas went to Cedar Falls for his milling. Until there was a supplier near, he went by team to Dubuque for groceries. The county was heavily wooded and many Winnebago Indians lived here.

The first township election was held in April 1854 at the home of Charles N. Martin, on Section 13, now in Washington Township. Sixty-one votes were cast at this election. The following persons were chosen to hold the said election: James Queen and E.W. Fish as clerks; and S.F. Shepherd,

Samuel Clayton and Thomas J. Sewell as judges. Officers elected were: Matthew Rowen and R.J. Ellsworth, justices; P.B. King and William B. Hamilton, constables; T.J. Sewell, James Boyd and James Queen, trustees; And E.W. Fish as township clerk.

The first term of the district court held in Bremer County was in June 1854 and presided over by Thomas S. Wilson, Judge of the Second Judicial District. There were present, in addition to the judge, Austin Farris, sheriff, and H.A. Miles, clerk of the court. The sheriff returned the following names who composed the first grand jury in the county: T.J. Sewell, J. Queen, James Michael, Jacob Benard, Lafayette Studevant, Ira Earl, John S. Jenkins, George K. Baskins, Culver Tuttle, Chandler Eveland, William Powell, Claudius Albee, Alexis Jackson, James Null and William Baskins.

The Bremer County trustees, Thomas Sewell, Andrew Daily and Henry P. Moore, purchased one acre of land for burying grounds. Soloman W. Ingham and Cynthia Ingman, his wife, sold the land in the northwest corner of Section 21 in Township 91 North, Range 14 on June 30, 1855 for six and one-fourth dollars. It is called Sewell Cemetery and is located two miles west of Highway #218 on Air Base Road, situated high on the southeast corner of a T-intersection. The Sewell Cemetery is the subject of an article in the Bremer County Independent Newspaper on May 10, 1977. There is only one Sewell buried here, that of Mary Leila Sewell, the infant daughter of William and M.A. Sewell who died in 1867 at the age of ten months and six days.

Thomas J. and Margaret had three sons and one son-in-law who served in the Civil War. They were Thomas Jr., Samuel, Sylvester and George Ellis, who was the husband of Margaret Letitia. In the 1880 Bremer County census, Margaret's two children are living with Thomas and Margaret, the grandparents. The children are Adah I. Ellis, 14 years old, and Thomas H. Ellis who is 11 years old. Another daughter, Hattie Ellis who was born in 1867, is not listed. Thomas's will, dated 1882, states that Thomas Ellis, his grandson, is to inherit Margaret's share. Margaret had died February 6, 1872 and is buried at Harlington Cemetery in Waverly beside Thomas and Margaret. One of Thomas and Margaret's sons is said to have been adopted, but it is unknown which one.

Thomas died in his home in Waverly on November 19, 1882. The death certificate lists the cause as "valvular disease with fatty degeneration of the heart and dropsy and had malarial fever about ten days ago." His obituary tells of his integrity and the touching farewell to his family as he

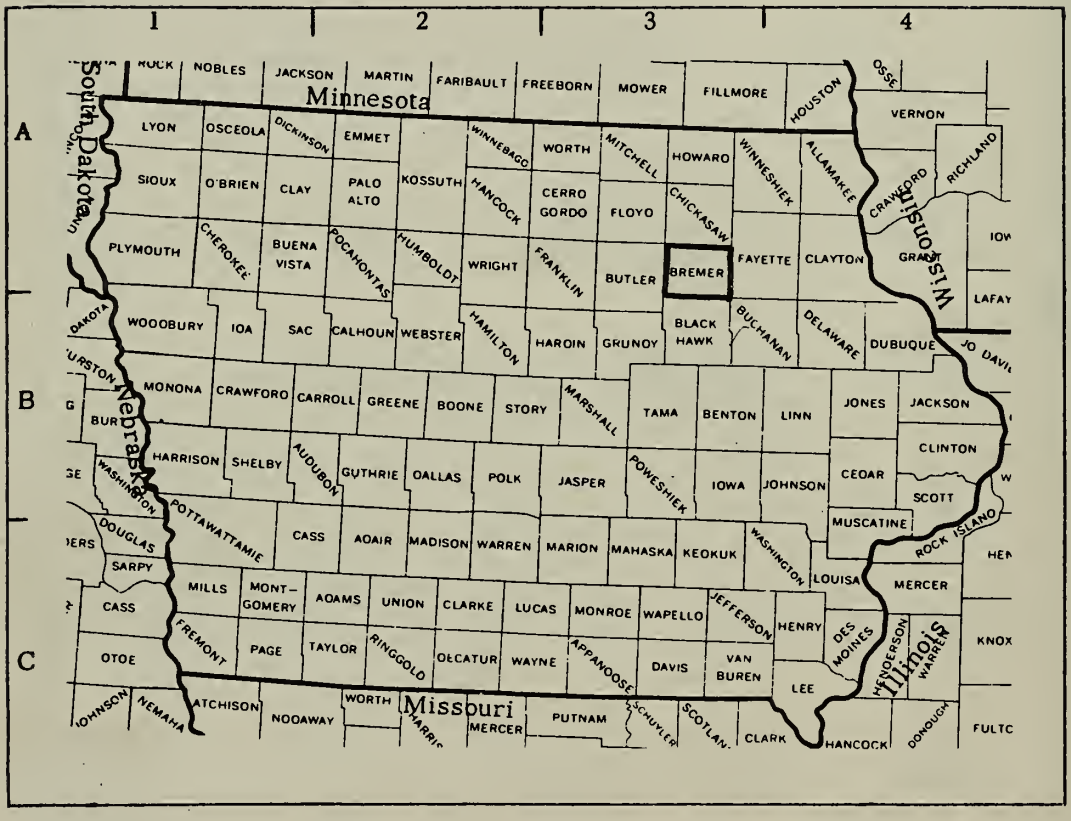
lay dying. Thomas Jefferson Sewell's probate is in Bremer County Book A., page 273, dated November 23, 1882. Margaret Henry Sewell died in Waverly of old age on Christmas Day, 1897. They are buried in Harlington Cemetery in Waverly, Iowa. (See partial inventory of Thomas Sewell's estate.)

THOMAS J. SEWELL signature on his will.

Signed this 10th day of March 1879.

Thomas J Sewell

IOWA MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF BREMER COUNTY



Purchase by Thomas J. Sewell of sixty acres in Bremer County, Iowa from John Barrick February 13, 1854.

Know all men by these presents that we John T. Barrick and Jane Barrick his wife of Bremer Co. in the State of Iowa in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred Forty-four 37/100 Dollars in hand paid by Thomas J. Sewell of Bremer County State of Iowa do hereby sell and convey unto the said Thomas J. Sewell his heirs or assigns the following described premises to wit: All that part or parcel of the South East quarter of Section Twenty one lying North and East of the Shellrock River including the Island in said River Containing sixty Eight and Eighty seven one hundreth acres more or less in Town Ninety one North of Range Fourteen West.

And we the do hereby covenant with the said Thomas J. Sewell his heirs or assigns that we are lawfully seized of said premises that they are free from incumbrance, that we have good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same. And we do hereby covenant to Warrant and Defend the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

Signed this Thirteenth day of February A. D. Eighteen Hundred and Fifty Four.

In Presence of
John M. Bennett
Mathew Rowen

John T. Barrick. [seal]
Jane Barrick. [seal]

State of Iowa. }
Bremer County. } On this Thirteenth day of February A. D. 1854. before me John M. Bennett a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally came John T. Barrick & Jane Barrick his wife to me Known to be the identical persons whose names are affixed to the above Deed as Grantors and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed.

John M. Bennett
Justice of the Peace.

Recorded this 18th day of July A. D. 1854.
John Hunter Recorder of Bremer Co.
By P. V. Swan. Deputy.

Jackson Township, Bremer County, Iowa showing land owners before 1900, cemeteries, rural schools, railroads and rivers. Thomas J. Sewell's land is in Section 21. The town of Janesville is in Section 35.

BIG WOODS AND TURKEY FOOT FORKS area showing original tree cover and trails.

SEWELL Third Generation

PROBATE # 301 CIRCUIT COURT January 8, 1883 C.H. Cooper, Clerk of Circuit Court APPRAISMENT BILL, PERSONAL PROBERTY for THOMAS SEWELL, deceased

1	Two Horses	130	00
2	Two Spring Colts. (Bay 35 - Black 40)	75	00
3	Two Cows	57	00
4	One single Buggy	60	00
5	One set Thy nets	0	00
6	One saddle & riding Bridle	5	00
7	Ten Shares of $100.00 each of the Capital stock of the Brazier County Bank, of Waverly ~~of Waverly~~ Iowa	1000	00
8	Corn appraised at 35 cts per bu. Cash from tenant of farm on rent & sale of stock as per terms of lease for yr 1882	45	00
10	One Buggy Pole	6	00
11	One Log Chain		50
12	One Hay Knife	1	00
13	One Settle		50
12	One set Bob sleds	4	00
13	Four Pitch Forks	1	00
14	One Spade		50
15	One Cross cut saw	2	00
16	One Drawing Knife (old)		00
17	Several Augurs		50
18	One Harrow	2	00
19	One Fanning Mill	4	00
20	One Churn	3	00
21	Two Hoes		40
22	One scoop shovel		50
23	One Part steel yards		50
24	One Cow Bell	1	00
25	Household & Kitchen furniture less than $200.00 in value	150	00
26	Two Beds & bedding therefor	50	00
27	One Organ	60	00
28	Family Books and pictures	0	00
29	Ordinary wearing apparel of deceased	20	00
		751	40

William Sewell was born March 10, 1833, probably in Hamilton County, Indiana, the third child and third son of Thomas Jefferson Sewell and Margaret Henry Sewell. He married Minerva Ann Bogan on December 7, 1851 in Kirklin, Clinton County, Indiana. Minerva was born July 14, 1834 in Clinton County, Ohio, the sixth child of James and Margaret Gray Bogan. Minerva was called Ann.

When Thomas and Margaret Sewell left Indiana for Iowa, William and Minerva went, too, arriving October 8, 1853, and homesteaded in Jackson Township, Bremer County. William's brother, Allen and Allen's wife, Lydia Mullins Sewell were in the traveling party to Jackson Township. That first winter in Iowa, William and Allen and their wives shared a log cabin.

To William and Minerva Ann were born three sons and six daughters, one who died as a child.

Children of William and Minerva Ann Bogan Sewell:

1: Homer Augustine Sewell born June 9, 1854 Janesville, Ia.
married January 13, 1875
to Mary Hamilton
died June 17, 1921 Shell Rock, Ia.

2: Eva Tabitha Sewell born March 30, 1857 Janesville, Ia.
married 1901 to Will Johnson
died 1941 Shell Rock, Iowa

3: Ida Jane Sewell born 1860 Janesville, Ia.
married April 7, 1877
to O.J. Wheeler
2nd to Theodore Zimmerman
died October 21, 1931 Hull, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

4: Edward Sylvester Sewell born June 12,1863, Janesville,Ia
married November 25, 1886
to Lestina Amelia McCaffree
2nd Helena Hazlitt
died October 25, 1936 Waverly, Ia.

5: Mary Leila Sewell born 1867, died 1867 Janesville, Ia.

6: Alice Viola Sewell born February 3,1868 Janesville, Ia
married Dec. 16, 1895
to George Richardson
2nd Fred J. Gibbs
died 1965 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

7: William Allen Sewell born April 11, 18-- Janesville, Ia.
married April 15, 1903 to Lucinda Paul
died 19--
probably Waterloo, Iowa

8: Rosa Catherine Sewell born April 24, 1871
Janesville, Iowa
married April 7, 1896
to Will Arthur Puffer
died June 11, 1956 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

9: Ora Gertrude Sewell born November 15, 1876
Janesville, Iowa
married June, 1898 to Frank A. Stolp
died 1952
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

(See page from family Bible showing William and Minerva Sewell birth dates and the births of four of their children. The Bible was in the possession of Alice Richardson Gibbs.)

Minerva united with the Christian Church when she was fifteen years old. After her marriage, she transferrd to her husband's church, the Methodist Episcopal. They lived, first, two miles north and one mile west of Janesville. In the fall of 1886 they moved to a farm two miles south of Janesville. They moved to Shell Rock in 1894. Minerva Ann had a small walnut rocker with a caned back and seat. When she was old, she had the rockers cut off on the back so it would fit better behind the stove. She could rock and keep warm in the corner.

William was a farmer. As a child he had a fondness for living creatures, and with this interest for the farm livestock, pets and wild animals, he either accidentally or deliberately set about to be a veterinarian, as well as a farmer. Thus, he had a veterinary practice for many years before there was a college degree for it. The state of Iowa passed a law requiring a license to practice veterinary in 1900. William had been in practice in excess of thirty years at this time, and he, as others in his situation, was granted a license to practice on his experience on December 31, 1900. His license number is #375. He was very proud to receive his license.

William had a recipe for a salve when he needed to draw infection from a wound, that he not only used on the livestock, but also on people. The ingredients are harder to obtain nowadays. It is dark in color and has a strong smell, but it keeps a long time and has a reputation for

healing stubborn wounds. This recipe is passed on to his descendants. Pour it into a small jar and use a lid, but it doesn't have to be sealed. It hardens when it cools. It is called Grandpa Salve.

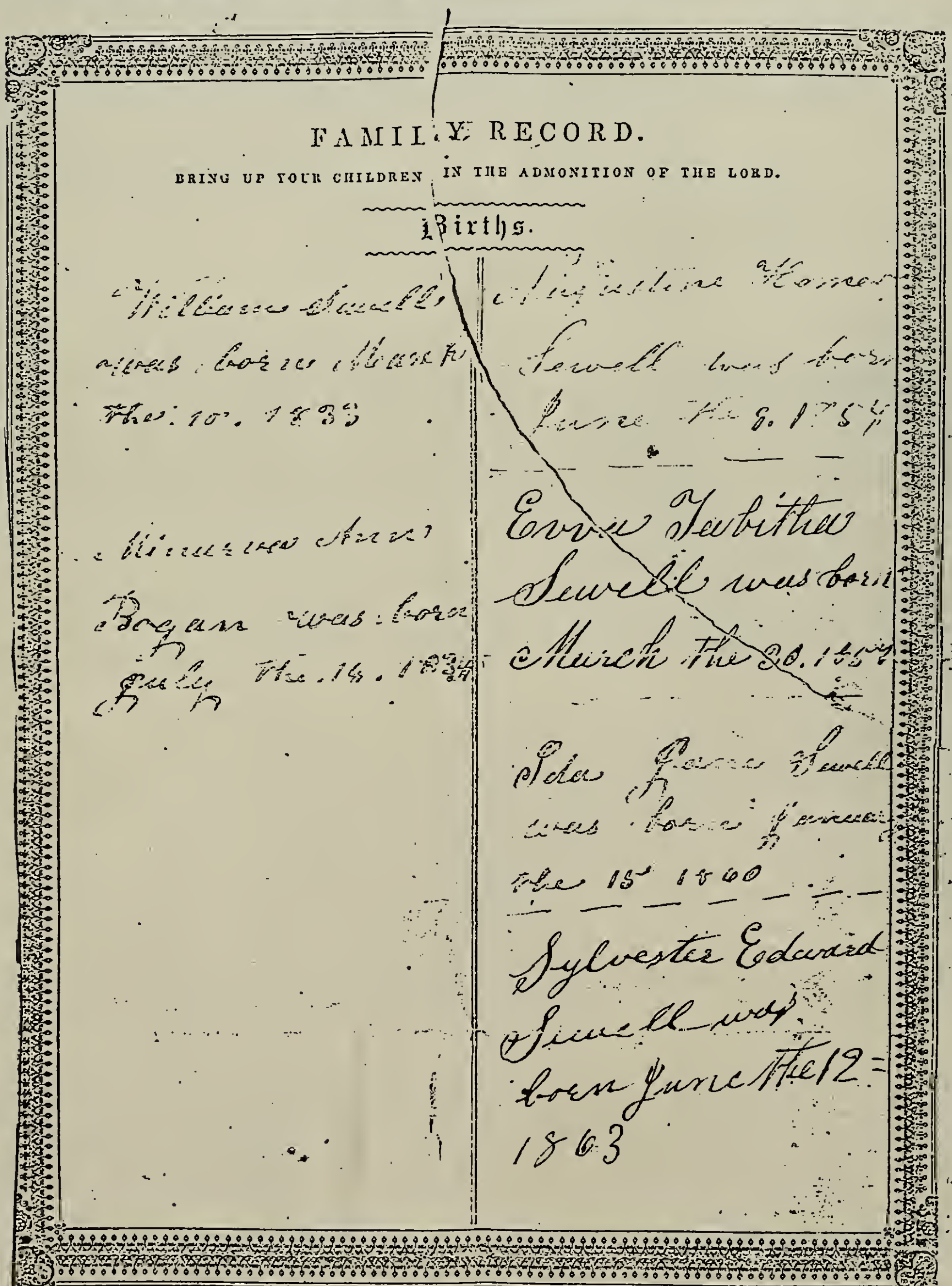
GRANDPA SALVE

Melt together:

2 oz. mutton tallow
2 oz. rosin
2 oz. beeswax
1 tablespoon tar
1 tablespoon turpentine

William died November 9, 1917 at their home in Shell Rock. Minerva lived another eight years, dying at the home of her son, Ed Sewell, southwest of Waverly on October 25, 1925. Both Minerva and William are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Shell Rock. No record of probate is to be found for them.

SEWELL FAMILY BIBLE showing William and Minerva in the left column, and births of four children on the right. The births for Mary, Viola, Rosa, William and Orrie Gertrude, is on the reverse of the page.


FAMILY RECORD.

BRING UP YOUR CHILDREN IN THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

Births.

William Sewell was born March the 10. 1833

Minerva Ann Bogan was born July the 14. 1834

Augustine Homer Sewell was born June the 8. 1857

Eva Tabitha Sewell was born March the 30. 1859

Ida Jane Sewell was born January the 15 1860

Sylvester Edward Sewell was born June the 12 = 1863

WILLIAM AND MINERVA ANN BOGAN SEWELL FAMILY left to right: Rosa, Billy, Ida, William (father), Edward, Gertrude, Homer, Minerva Ann (mother), Eva, and Alice.

WILLIAM AND MINERVA ANN SEWELL HOME IN SHELL ROCK, IOWA
On the left are Ann and William Sewell, seated on the right are Ila Sewell and Earl Gibson. Others are not identified.

In the Sewell family Bible, on the page of births for William and Minerva Sewell's children, it is written that Sylvester Edward was born June 12, 1863. He was the fourth child. The oldest, Homer, was nine years old. Since William had a brother named Sylvester, it is likely the new baby was named for him. As an adult, Sylvester Edward is known as Edward Sylvester and has the same birth date, therefore we have to assume that he reversed his names to his liking.

Edward S. Sewell and Lestina Amelia McCaffree were married November 25, 1886. Being a farmer the date may have been chosen because the crops were in for the fall and it would be a few months before the spring planting began. When Ed and Lestina were married, Grover Cleveland was president. The Statue of Liberty had been unveiled the previous month. Three years earlier, a farmer at Shell Rock sold 23 hogs that weighed a total of 5,795 lbs. for which he received $5.60 a hundred. The same farmer bought 1,650 lbs. of coal at $5.25 a ton, for which he paid $4.30.

The marriage license is recorded in Bremer County Book 30 on page 23. Edward Sewell is 24 years old, his address is Janesville, and his occupation is farmer. His father's name is William Sewell, but his mother's name is M.A. Borgan, not Bogan. Lestina is 25 years old. The marriage was witnessed by L. McCaffree and certified by W.S. Skinner.

Lestina McCaffree was born April 20, 1862 in Bremer County, Iowa. Her father was Charles McCaffree, who was the first white settler in Bremer County in 1845. Her mother was Cynthia Messinger who came with her parents and brothers and sisters, the John Hill and Mary Miller Messinger family, from Indiana to Bremer County in 1846. Lestina was called "Tiny" by everyone.

Ed and Lestina had nine children in seventeen years. This must have meant a lot of preserving, soap making and quilting on Tiny's part. They moved to Greenfield in Dade County, Missouri for a few years before the turn of the century. While there, two children, Orrin and Blanche, were born. The return to Iowa by covered wagons with four daughters and one son, took thirty days to reach Shell Rock. The meals were done on a kerosene stove, even baking bread, as they camped along the way. Many of Eds' brothers and sisters were in Butler and Bremer County, as were Lestina's.

SEWELL Fifth Generation

Children of Edward S. Sewell and Lestina Amelia McCaffree Sewell: (it seems only the sons were given middle names, with the exception of Lee.)

1: Lee Sewell
born September 18, 1887
Janesville, Iowa
died August 23, 1888 Janesville, Iowa

2: Lena Sewell
born August 20, 1888 Janesville, Iowa
married November 25,1908 Janesville,Iowa
to Warren W. Wright
died October 18, 1977 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Jesup, Iowa

3: Ila Sewell
born July 17, 1890 Janesville, Iowa
married December 23, 1914 Janesville,Ia.
to Earl Gibson
died April 5, 1973 Sand Point, Idaho

4: Eva Sewell
born January 4, 1892 Janesville, Iowa
married March 15, 1917 Janesville, Iowa
to Halbert James Loveland
died April 18, 1988 Tacoma, Wash.

5: Orrin Floyd Sewell
born February 9, 1896 Dade Co., Mo.
married September 2, 1917
to Mary D. Whitney
died October 31, 1986 Bemidji, Minn.
buried Maynard, Iowa

6: Blanche Sewell
born February 22, 1898 Dade Co., Mo.
married November 29, 1917
to Clive Whitney
died January 26, 1967
buried Gibsonia, Penna.

7: Hilda Sewell
born February 21, 1900 Janesville, Iowa
died August 31, 1905 Janesville, Iowa

8: Ora Ozro Sewell
born February 20, 1902
married June 1, 1924 Cedar Falls, Ia.
to Evelyn Ruth Kimball
died December 5, 1985 Waverly, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

9: Violet Sewell
born April 7, 1904 Janesville, Iowa
married September 27, 1930 Nashua, Ia.
to Reinhold S. Mack
died October 28, 1980 West Union, Iowa
buried Fayette, Iowa

ED SEWELL FAMILY 1918, at the farm home near Janesville, Iowa.

Front row:	Ed Sewell(father), Ora, Orrin
Middle row:	Lestina(mother), Violet, Ila
Back row:	Blanche, Eva, Lena

Ed and Lestina lost two children to illness, bringing grief and sadness to the home. Lee, their first born, died before his first birthday three days after their second child, Lena, was born. Hilda died of dysentery in 1905 when she was five years old.

As the children grew up and none had left home yet, Eva and Ila taught two schools east of their home and drove a horse and buggy there, while Orrin and Blanche drove a horse and buggy to high school in Shell Rock. Ora and Violet, the youngest, rode ponies to the country school. Lestina said by the time she got everyone off, she had about done a days work.

Ed and Lestina lived on a farm that they rented from Allen Sewell, Ed's uncle. It was in Sections 16 and 17 in Washington Township, Bremer County. When they got their first telephone, their call on the party line was one short, one long, and one short. Ed and Lestina's first car was in 1917 when they bought a black radiator Ford Touring car. It had magneto lights and no demountable wheels. The first flat tire was at night and the lights worked only while the motor was running. You had to patch the tube and blow it up by hand.

Lestina charged Ed with cruel and inhuman treatment and was granted a divorce March 25, 1930. In the decree she was awarded all her household goods and the furniture which she had paid for herself, the dishes, and 108 hens and all the eggs. Ed was to pay her $1,200 in cash in lieu of alimony. He owned one house and two lots in Shell Rock, eighteen cows, six calves, one bull, five horses, three mules, about thirty hogs, one thousand bushels of corn, five hundred bushels of oats, fifty tons of hay, and one Whippet automobile.

Signatures of Edward S. Sewell and Lestina A. Sewell on the divorce decree.

In Witness Whereof the parties have hereto signed their names at Waverly,Iowa, this 13th day of February,A.D.1930.

Lestina A. Sewell
Plaintiff

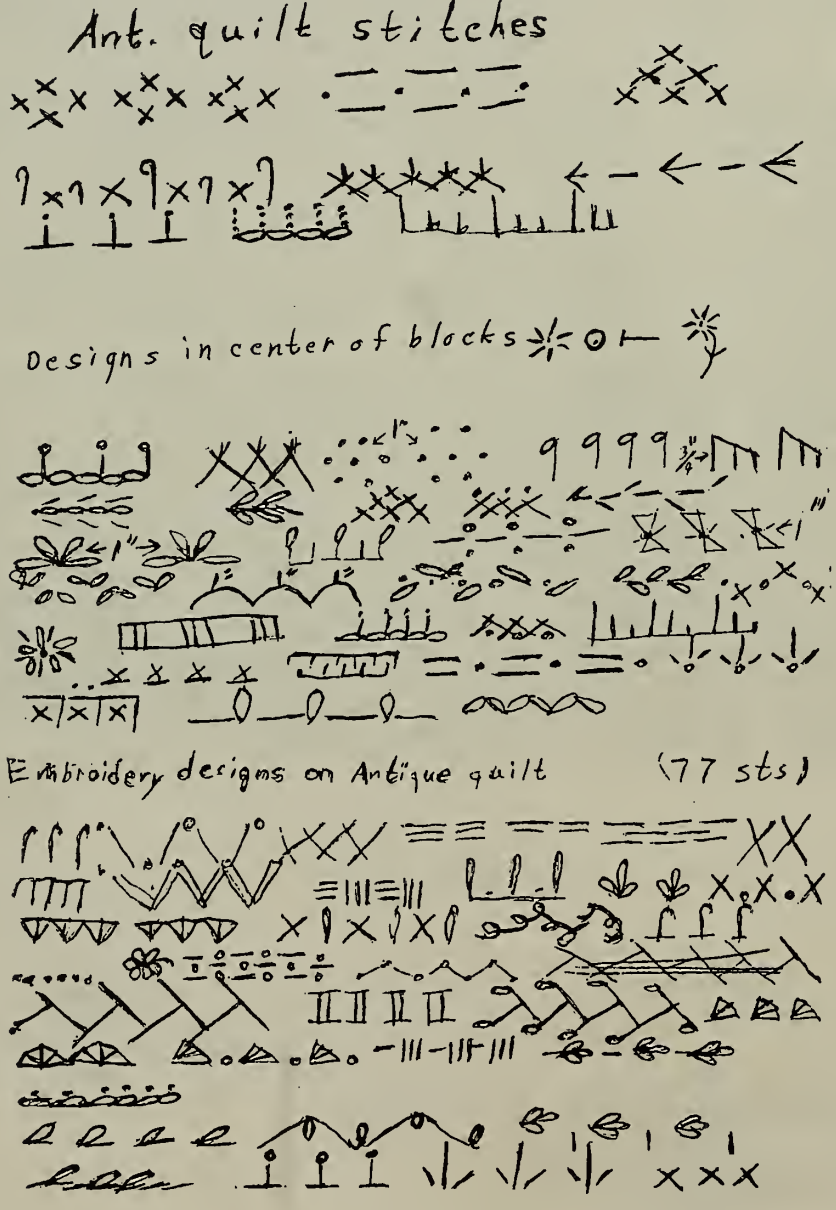
E. S. Sewell
Defendant

Ed married Helena Hazlitt in September, 1930. Ed died quite suddenly at his home on the farm five miles southeast of Shell Rock on October 25, 1936. He was 73 years old. Helena, 39 years old, was named executor of the estate. The probate for Ed is Document #3038 in Bremer County. Helena lived until 1965. Ed and Helena are buried at Harlington Cemetery in Waverly, Iowa. (See partial inventory of Ed Sewell's property as found in the probate records.)

Lestina pieced numerous quilts by hand, and then quilted them by hand. She used old clothes or scraps. For some years the feed companies printed a floral pattern on cloth sacks that were utilized for tea towels, clothes, or in making quilts. In her later years she suffered from what was known as 'hardening of the arteries'. She died when she was 85 years old, on September 4, 1947 at a nursing home in Oelwein, Iowa. She is buried at Oakland Cemetery in Janesville, Iowa, beside her two children, Lee and Hilda.

As in previous generations, Ed and Lestina weren't dependent upon the supermarket. They were almost self-sufficient, raising or making almost everything they needed. Their children were of the generation during which the most scientific advances were made of any preceding generation. Don't assume they couldn't adapt to change. They did. They were born in the horse and buggy era with a tea kettle or reservoir on the cookstove to heat water, an outdoor privy, a pump and wash basin and the wash board. Soon there was the automobile, radio, electricity, televison, the airplane, atomic energy, and man was in outer space and on the moon, all in the span of one lifetime. Great medical advances were made during the first 75 years of the Twentieth century. And they took it all in stride.

SEVENTY-SEVEN STITCHES THAT LESTINA USED IN MAKING A CRAZY QUILT. IT IS MOSTLY IN DARK COLORS OF VELVETS, SATINS, AND SILKS.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOLDERS FROM FUNERALS OF ED AND LESTINA SEWELL

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way.
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love . . . .

Music By

Mrs. Thelma Murray singer
Mrs. Forrest Adair

In Memory Of
Lestina Amelia Sewell

Born
April 20th, 1862
Bremer County, Iowa

Date Of Death
September 4th, 1947
Oelwein, Iowa

Services From
First M. E. Church

Clergyman Officiating
Rev. Geo. W. Baker

Final Resting Place
Oakland Cemetery
Janesville, Iowa

Casket Bearers

Earl Shipman — Forest Shipman
Vern H Conner — Bruce Hickle
C. D. Eggleston — James Barr

Floral Arrangements
Mrs. Mary Hickle
Mrs. ~~Lottie Mann~~ Florence Huffman

Sept. 7, 1947

CASKET BEARERS

Victor Dove
Fred Erbes
Wm. Roever
Jerry Martin
Dr. M. B. Chesebro
Weldon Strickler

Crossing The Bar

Sunset and evening star;
And one clear call for me!
And may there be
no moaning of the Bar
When I put out to sea.
. . . . .
For tho' from out our bourne
of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot—
face to face.
When I have crost the bar

—Tennyson

SERVICES
FOR
ED S. SEWELL

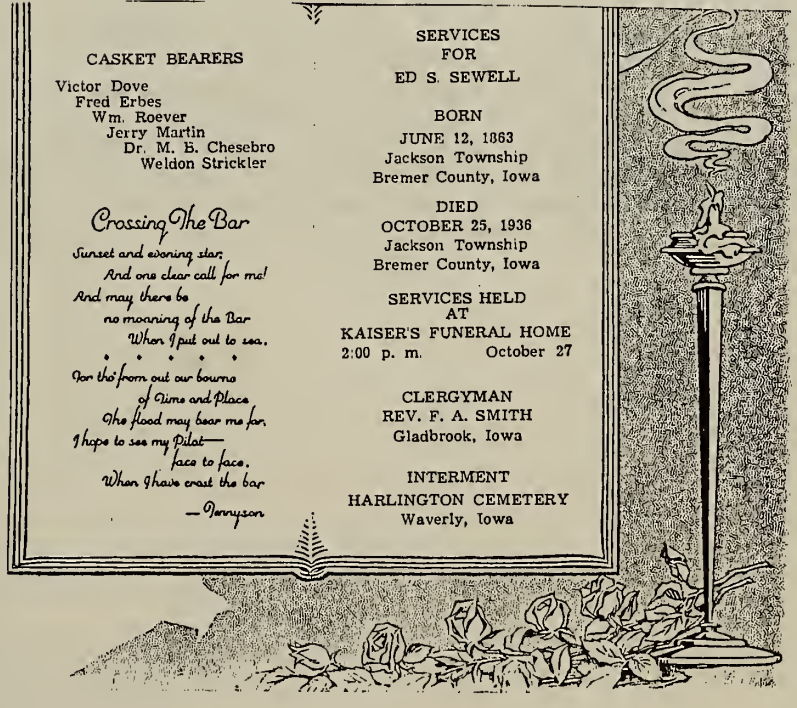
BORN
JUNE 12, 1863
Jackson Township
Bremer County, Iowa

DIED
OCTOBER 25, 1936
Jackson Township
Bremer County, Iowa

SERVICES HELD
AT
KAISER'S FUNERAL HOME
2:00 p. m. October 27

CLERGYMAN
REV. F. A. SMITH
Gladbrook, Iowa

INTERMENT
HARLINGTON CEMETERY
Waverly, Iowa



Poem read at Ed Sewell's funeral in 1936 and again fifty years later at his son, Orrin's, funeral in 1986.

HE LIVED A LIFE

by H.W. Fifer

What was his creed?
I do not know his creed, I only know
that here below, he walked the common road
And lifted many a load, lightened the task,
Brightened the day for others toiling on a weary way;
This, his only need; I do not know his creed.

What was his creed? I never heard him speak
Of visions rapturous, of Alpine peak,
Of doctrine, dogma, new or old;
But this I know, he was forever bold
To stand alone, to face the challenge of each day,
And to live the truth, so far as he could see--
The truth that evermore makes free.

His creed? I care not what his creed;
Enough that never yielded he to greed,
But served a brother in his need
Plucked many a thorn and planted many a flower;
Glorified the service of each hour;
Had faith in God, himself, and fellow man;
Perchance he never thought in terms of creed;
I only know he lived a life, in deed!

SEWELL Fifth Generation

OBITUARY for ED. S. SEWELL as found in the WAVERLY DEMOCRAT Friday October 30, 1936 Page 4, 2nd Section

Ed S. Sewell, son of William and Ann Sewell, early settlers in Jackson Township and passed away at his home five miles southeast of Shell Rock at 5:30 A.M., Oct. 25, 1936. His death was caused by a blood clot on the heart. He was in his usual health up to that time.

With the exception of a short residence in Missouri and one in Butler County, he had lived his entire life in Bremer County. He was married twice, first in November, 1886 to Tina McCaffree of Jackson Township; then in September 1930 to Helen Hazlett of Waverly.

He has two sons and five daughters by his first marriage: Orrin F., Fayette; Ora O., near Shell Rock; Mrs. Lena Wright, near Jessup; Mrs Ila Gibson, Glenwood; Mrs. Eva Loveland, Amarillo, Texas; Mrs Blanche Whitney, Quimby; and Mrs Violet Mack, Janesville; also eleven grandchildren; four sisters and one brother, Mrs. Eva Johnson, Mrs. Alice Gibbs, and Mrs Gertrude Stolp, Waterloo, Mrs. Rose Puffer, Shell Rock, and W.A. Sewell, Cedar Falls.

Two children, Lee and Hilda, a brother Homer, and two sisters, Ida and Mary, preceded him in death. One who has known Mr. Sewell for years, speaks of him thus: "By his many friends, neighbors, and dear ones, who knew and loved him, he will be sadly missed and remembered for his bravery in taking lifes' hard knocks without whining, his kindness and helpfulness in trouble ordained, and his love for the little ones. His many good deeds seemed to us practical Christianity, and we believe he has passed on and up into life's fuller development where all the good and true in his likable personality will live and grow."

PARTIAL LIST OF INVENTORY OF ASSETS taken from the PROBATE RECORDS for ED S. SEWELL, DECEASED

ARTICLES	APPRAISMENT VALUE
Running gear of wagon	$3.00
Mower	$2.00
Set of Wagon Springs	$?.25
Corn Plow	$?.50
Two Section Drag	$. 55
14 in. Walking Plow	$1.00
1 horse five shovel garden plow	$ .25
1927 Whippet 4, Coupe	$10.00
1 set Concord harness	$5.00
3 10 gal milk cans	$1.00
2 horse halters	$ .25
8 geese	$ .25
5 shoats, 5 months old	$25.00
1 Morris chair	$1.50
1 heater	$1.00
1 Majestic cook stove	$2.00
1 Perfection Kerosene heater	$ .20
Stove pipes	$ .10
2 burner Perfection Kerosene stove	$2.50
Telephone	$ .25
Piano and bench	$5.00
Vice cross cut saw	$ .50
Wagon jack	$ .10
Wire stretcher	$ .10
Lawn mower	$ .50
Scoop shovel	$ .25
Pails	$ .10
Stone jars	$1.00
Large canvas	$ .25
Short ladder	$ .10
Seed corn	$1.00
Axes	$ .50
Forks	$ .25
Two shares stock in Farmer's Exchange	$10.00

The first child born to Edward S. and Lestina McCaffree Sewell was a son named Lee. He was born September 18, 1887 at the farm near Janesville, Iowa. He died before his first birthday, on August 23, 1888. He is buried near Janesville with his sister, Hilda, and their mother.

Lena Sewell was born August 20, 1888, the second child to Edward S. and Lestina McCaffree Sewell at their farm home near Janesville in Bremer County, Iowa. She taught country school before her marriage to Warren Winfield Wright on November 25, 1908. Warren was born April 2, 1886, the son of W.C. and Emily Gustafson Wright. Warren had lived in Illinois and Anamosa, Iowa prior to moving to Jesup. Warren was 23 years old and Lena was 21 and the ceremony was witnessed by Warren's parents. Lena and Warren lived on a farm in the Janesville area for a few months after they were married. They moved to Waterloo where they both worked in a shirt factory, then they had a dairy farm on an acreage near Cedar Falls.

About seven years after they were married, they moved to a farm in Buchanan County, Iowa along the Wapsipinicon River, near Jesup and Hazelton, not far from the Black Hawk County line. Lena raised two daughters, Thelma and Melva. When her children had left home, she raised peacocks and other fowl, and had a cage of parakeets in the east window of her kitchen. Lena had an extensive vocabulary and every sentence was spoken with good grammar. She was interested in affairs around the world, geography and nature, and could carry on an educated conversation with people of all ages.

When they left the farm, they lived at Friendship Village in Waterloo, Iowa, where they had a small apartment. Lena crocheted and Warren played pool. Lena died October 18, 1977. Warren died July 6, 1974. They are buried at Jesup in Cedar Crest Cemetery in Perry Township, Buchanan County, Iowa.

Their two daughters are Thelma Wright who was born February 17, 1911, and Melva Luella Wright who was born December 15, 1919 on the farm three miles north and east of Jesup.

SEWELL Sixth Generation

Ila Sewell was born July 17, 1890, the third child of Edward S. Sewell and Lestina McCaffree Sewell near Janesville in Bremer County, Iowa. Before her marriage she attended Teacher's College in Cedar Falls and taught country school. She married Earl C. Gibson on December 23, 1914. Earl was 21 years old and farmed near Shell Rock. He was the oldest son of Charles H. Gibson and Mary Anna Hennis Gibson. The ceremony was held at the Congregational parsonage in Waverly. The couple was attended by Miss Mamie Whitney and Orrin Sewell. A reception was held at the bride's parents following the ceremony, which included an elaborate dinner. They made their home with Earl's parents until spring when they moved to the Ed Sewell farm.

Earl and Ila farmed in Bremer County for several years before they moved to Glenwood, Iowa where they ran a feed business that included buying eggs, cream and milk from the farmers. As time went on they added a small grocery store for the farmers to get milk, bread, etc. while they were there. Ila did some painting when she was young. There still exists a 12" X 16" watercolor of pansies in a vase, quite faded now. All the Sewell girls were handy with their hands. An example of Ila's handwork while they lived at Glenwood would be a printed scene on fabric that she would pad and quilt, and then frame.

When they retired, they moved to Sand Point, Idaho on Lake Pend Oreille in northern Idaho, a place of great scenic beauty, and near salmon fishing. Ila and Earl were not blessed with children, but they were good friends to nieces and nephews and the neighbor's children. Ila died April 5, 1973 at the age of 82. Earl died when he was 79 years old, on December 1, 1973. They are buried in Broten Cemetery in Bonner County, Idaho

Eva Sewell was born January 4, 1892, the fourth child of Edward S. and Lestina McCaffree Sewell, on the farm near Janesville. Eva also attended Teacher's College so she could teach country school before her marriage. She married Halbert James Loveland on March 15, 1917. Hal was 29 years old having been born on June 19, 1888, a farmer, the son of Cheney K. Loveland and Jennie St.John Loveland. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Lang, the Methodist Episcopal pastor, and witnessed by Blanche Sewell and Clive Whitney. They farmed in Bremer County before moving to Amarillo, Texas. Eva carved a doll for each of her nieces from a cottonwood tree root. The dolls were about three feet tall and had movable arms and legs.

Eva and Hal lost their only daughter at the tender age of four while they lived at Fowler, Colorado. When World War II broke out, they moved to Bremerton, Washington where Hal worked in a shipyard. In Tacoma, Eva worked as a seamstress and did alterations in a department store, where her work was desired by the wealthy customers. Her nickname was "Lovey'.

Three children were born to Eva, Edna Mae Loveland was born May 15, 1919. She died from appendicitis on August 31, 1923. The second child was Vern Loveland who was born April 21, 1921 in Iowa. The youngest child, Ralph James Loveland, was born July 7, 1925 in Iowa.

Hal had cancer surgery several years before he died September 2, 1964. Eva died April 18, 1988. They are buried in Tacoma, Washington.

Orrin Floyd Sewell was born February 9, 1896, the fifth child, while Edward and Lestina and the older children were living in Dade County, Missouri. When he was two years old, they moved back to Iowa, where he grew up on the family farm between Shell Rock and Janesville.

When he was a teenager his dad bought him a horse of which he was very proud. He took it to town on a buggy one day and raced someone down Main Street and was stopped by the authorities for going too fast. Later when the Mayor complained to Ed about it, Ed said, "I bought him a good horse and he's supposed to show it off."

Orrin wrote about remembering when the rural mail route was started by their place when he was a child. Their ring on the new telephone party line was one short, one long, one short.

He enlisted in the Army when the United States went to war in 1917. The family hired a photographer to come to the farm to take a picture of all of them before Orrin left. It is taken outside on the porch and he is wearing his uniform. Two pictures were taken, one of Ed and Tiny and the seven children, and the other one included the in-laws and one grandchild, Thelma Wright. (see photo) He enlisted July 23, 1918 at Waverly, Iowa and was discharged December 28, 1918 at Des Moines, Iowa.

Orrin married Mary Delano Whitney, who was called Mamie by everyone. Mamie was from Plainfield, Iowa, the daughter of Samuel B. Whitney and Mary A. Richards Whitney. Orrin was 22 years old and Mamie was 25 years old. Ila and Earl Gibson witnessed the ceremony on September 2, 1917 that was performed by Rev. A.B. Soule. For their honeymoon they drove a Model T Ford to Chicago on dirt roads except for one mile. There was no heater in cars, so rocks were heated in the range oven to rest their feet on while they covered their laps with a woolen blanket.

Roger was born October 23, 1919 when they lived in a house on his parent's place. They bought a farm one mile south of Maynard in Buchanan County where Mildred was born on December 20, 1920 while the neighbors were there shredding corn. The men would go from farm to farm helping with field work and the women prepared the meals for them.

Orrin could have sold his first crop of oats for sixty cents a bushel when he thrashed, but he was advised it was a poor time to sell. He hauled them to the elevator where he stored them for one cent a bushel. In March when he needed money to pay the interest, he had to sell them for ten cents a bushel.

After butchering, the fat was rendered into lard and the pork was canned because this was before refrigeration. Chickens and eggs were taken to town to trade for groceries. Orrin learned blacksmithing at college and could sharpen the blades for the threshing machine. He would sharpen a knife blade on the leather sole of his shoes. He received a bonus for being in the service and used that to build a silo. Geraldine was born October 23, 1922 on the farm near Maynard. In 1935 they sold the farm and bought a gas station and garage selling Chrysler products in Fayette. Gas was 15 cents a gallon and one model car sold for $600.

When Orrin's children started to school, the school bus was pulled by horses. Orrin played several musical instruments, among them the french horn in the town band at the Saturday night band concert in the band stand built on Main Street.

They traded the station for a farm east of Maynard. When World War II began, they kept the farm but moved to Waterloo where they both worked for the Rath Packing Company. Orrin sliced bacon by hand. After the war, they went back to the farm and Orrin drove a tank wagon for Farm Service delivering gas to farmers. They built a house in Maynard and lived in it a short time when Mamie died May 16, 1958 at the age of 65 years. She is buried at Long Grove Cemetery at Maynard.

When Orrin retired he did woodworking and many people received a piece when he finished it. Orrin wintered in Florida in the Clearwater, Zephyrhills area. In 1959 he married Inez Armentrout who died suddenly a year after they married. He married Louise Nichols January 19, 1962. Louise died about 1975. His fourth marriage was to Myrtle Fetterhoff in 1977 in Monroe, Wisconsin.

On his 90th birthday he played the harmonica and did a jig. At the time of his death he was a 65 year member of the American Legion, a life long Methodist, and a member of the Masonic Lodge. He died October 31, 1986 in Bemidji, Minnesota. He is buried beside Mamie at Long Grove Cemetery.

Blanche Sewell, the sixth child born to Edward and Lestina McCaffree Sewell, was born February 22, 1898 in Dade County, Missouri. She grew up in Bremer County, Iowa, but unlike her sisters, she did not teach. She attended business school where she took a course in stenography in which work she engaged, most of the time in Cedar Falls.

She married Clive Whitney, a cousin of Orrin's wife, Mamie Whitney. Clive lived in western Iowa. They married Thursday, November 29, 1917 at the M.E. parsonage in Waterloo, Rev. J. Court saying the ceremony. Miss Irene Arns of Canby, Minnesota acted as bridesmaid and Ora Sewell as groomsman. After a trip to Chicago they made their home at Quimby, Iowa where they engaged in farming. They then operated a cafe in Audubon, Iowa. They had three sons, Veral Whitney was born May 28, 1918 at Quimby in Cherokee County, Iowa, the second son, Leland Aubrey Whitney, was born at Cherokee, Iowa October 31, 1920, and the third son, Delbert Dwayne Whitney was born October 18, 1932 at Cherokee.

Blanche and Clive divorced and Blanche moved to the Chicago area in 1940. In 1956 she married Joseph A. Burns and lived in the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania area for a few years where Joe owned and managed a swimming pool. They wintered in the Tacoma, Washington area until her death on January 26, 1967. Joe died December 30, 1968 at the age of 80 years. They are buried at Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, as is Joe's first wife.

The seventh child of Ed and Lestina McCaffree Sewell was Hilda. Hilda was born February 21, 1900 at Janesville. Several in the family were ill, and Hilda died of dysentery August 31, 1905 and is buried at the Oakland Cemetery on the north edge of Janesville, Iowa beside her mother and her brother, Lee.

Ora Ozro Sewell was the eighth child born to Ed and Tiny Sewell on February 20, 1902 at the farm home at the foot of the cemetery between Shell Rock and Janesville, Iowa. He said they learned to work and play there. When Hilda died, Ora was also very ill and remembers having to learn to walk again. He wrote "We all had sickness caused by impure water and Hilda, next older than me, died then. I was very sick and bedfast several months and I remember I had to learn to walk the second time. We had a nurse named Abigail Wetheral that stayed with us. The Doctor ordered her to have me eat a raw egg. She put it in and held my mouth shut, while that egg went up and down. Later she tried to make up with me, but I wouldn't."

Other memories while he was growing up include he and Violet running to meet their dad coming home after having his mustache shaved off and not recognizing him, Orrin being chased by a blue racer snake down the buggy track while he was riding his bicycle, and being paid 25 cents for each woodchuck he killed on the neighbor's farm.

Ora's dad bought a mare they called Pinto and bred her to a Shetland pony. They called her colt Beauty. He and a friend rode their ponies up the steps of the train platform and jumped off. They hitched them to a cart that they made from old tent poles. They drove them around the pasture with half the spokes out of the wheels, and used the whip to go around corners on high. Ora remembered when Orrin and Earl Gibson used to take the mules to the river where the water was deep and have lots of fun swimming the mules around.

The first car ride Ora remembered riding in was in an overland touring car that was a two seated car with no doors, and had straps that went from the top down to the front fenders. The first time he saw an airplane was at Cedar Falls on the Fourth of July. The airplane took off up river, got about fifty feet off the water, and flew about two or three hundred feet.

As a young man he liked to think he was a fast runner and could beat anybody in school. He didn't finish high school in Shell Rock, quitting to start farming. He married June 1, 1924 to Evelyn Ruth Kimball in Cedar Falls. Evelyn was born July 18, 1902, the third child of Will and Eliza Ressler Kimball of Shell Rock. After high school, Evelyn attended Teacher's College at Cedar Falls and taught country school. The first years after they were married they lived in a little house part way up the hill behind Ora's parents farm house. After a time, they moved to a farm closer to Janesville that was owned by Rae Sewell, the granddaughter of Allen Sewell. It had a pebble-dashed house on the south side of the road with a vine covered windmill in the yard. North across the dusty road stood the red barn. Evelyn

raised a large garden and canned corn and other garden vegetables, as well as chicken and beef in glass jars or tin cans. She sold these to people in Cedar Falls who did not have gardens or meat to butcher. Two children were born while they lived here, Beverly Faye Sewell on November 18, 1930 and Dean Elburn Sewell on November 2, 1932. They moved in the spring of 1933 to Evelyn's parent's farm north of Shell Rock. They rented the 160 acres a few years before they made arrangements to buy it. Evelyn's father, W.C. Kimball bought in Butler County from Charles H. Angell the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 and the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 in Section 27, Township 92, Range 15, on October 23, 1902. Ora and Evelyn purchased from W.C. Kimball on February 15, 1946. Here they stayed until they retired.

The economy in 1933 had not rebounded much following the great depression in 1929. Everything was done with the least possible cost, from work to leisure. Homeless, unemployed men walked the railroad tracks and stopped to ask for a hand out, which they were never refused. Ora and Evelyn played cards at one another's homes, everyone taking the children along. They attended dances. and they went on picnics. Another social event was a chivaree that would be held for newly married couples where their friends serenaded them with tin pans and horns. School spelling bees, programs and box socials were held. The Kimball farm had two clay horseshoe courts and a croquet court between the ice house and the timber, where the swings, one a bag swing, hung from the trees.

Butchering was done in the fall. Walnuts and butternuts were picked up, shelled and picked out to use in baking. Ora made his own rope. Evelyn made soap using lye and fat and cut it into bars for the laundry. Clothes were hung out to freeze during the winter, then brought in and put on racks to dry. Ora would go hunting during pheasant and squirrel season. Often he would come home and Evelyn would have a squirrel lying on the step that she had gotten standing on the back step while he was gone. One time Evelyn got two pheasants with one shot by lining them up one behind the other.

Eggs were put into the incubator in the cellar, candled to determine the fertile ones, and returned to incubate. When they hatched they were put in the brooder house with a kerosene heater (before electricity) under a metal umbrella (hover) where the baby chicks could keep warm. After refrigeration, when they were the size to eat, the roosters were killed and as many as possible were dressed in a day. Fried chicken and sweet corn from the garden would coincide in July. The pullets were housed to lay eggs, which had to be removed from the nests every day, a job children could do, but seldom enjoyed.

Morel mushrooms were plentiful during May and Ora hunted them in the woods. During mushroom season company was invited for sirloin steaks and mushrooms. Evelyn had a large garden which included a large strawberry bed. June was the peak picking time. This would be when a houseful of neighbors would be invited in to share the bounty by making homemade ice cream to go with the strawberries. When Ora mowed the hay, bull frogs would get caught by the mower. He brought them to the house and frog legs were on the menu for supper.

The oats were cut with a binder, and the bundles shocked in the field. A coal burning steam thresher moved from farm to farm with the neighbors making up a threshing ring. The summer heat and humidity made the farmers subject to heat stroke if they weren't careful.

Evelyn was born in 1902, the year her father bought in Section 27. The original house was two rooms and two stories. W.C. Kimball added on to the house using the oak from the timber. The walls were thick and solid, making it warm and nearly sound proof. The dining room was where most of the living took place. The walls were varnished paneling and an elk horn hung in the corner. A farmer on the south side of the Shell Rock River had a team of elk, and W. C. ask for half a rack when one died.

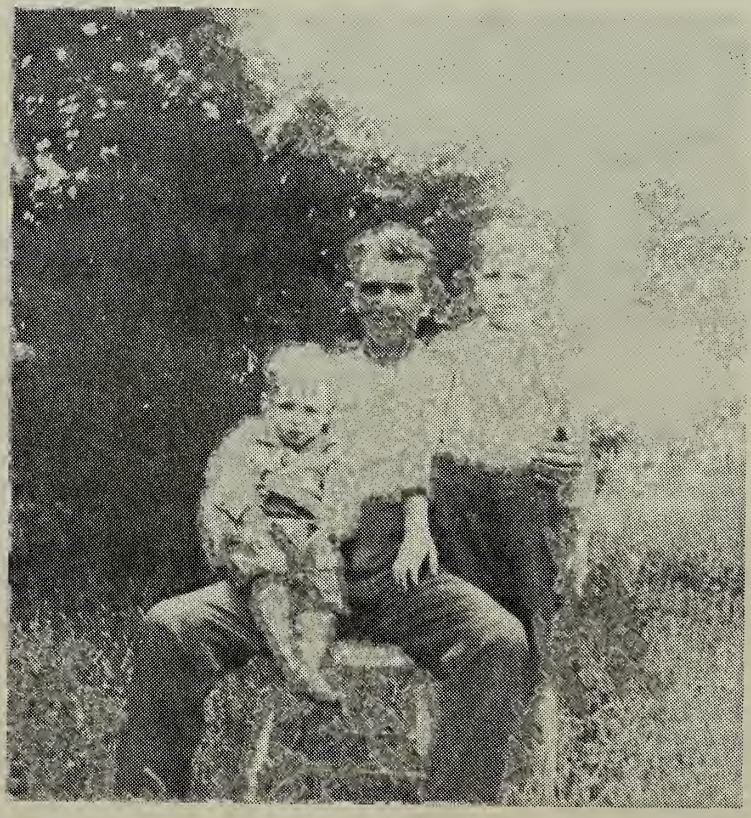
The Kimball farm was typical for the time, but also atypical. Indoor plumbing was installed about 1915, unique in the area. There was a cistern in the cellar that was filled by water piped from the windmill. On the second floor was a tank mounted on legs. Water was pumped into the tank and gravity ran the water into the stool and bathtub on the second floor, and into the sink in the kitchen downstairs. Water from the windmill was also piped to the tank house, the milk tank, the stock tank and to the hog house. Most farms used kerosene lamps. The Kimball farm was lighted by a carbide system. Carbide came in irregular pieces and was put in a hopper that was suspended over water, which then produced a gas. The gas went through pipes into fixtures hung from the ceiling. Strike a flint or a match to the gas, and the room was illuminated. The globe was removed only for cleaning. One fixture had two jets and an iron could be heated to press the clothes. A pipe was underground to the barn. There was a wood burning furnace in the basement. The R.E.A. came down the road in 1936.

Ora had a mechanical mind and when he saw a need for an improvement on a piece of machinery, he would solve the problem with an invention. When he had grandchildren, he mounted the hay loader mechanism on the first level of the windmill and hung two rope swings on it and attached an electric motor to it. It was a big success.

Although some farmers had tractors in the thirties, Ora's first tractor was a John Deere Model "A" that he purchased in 1946. He raised corn, soybeans, and oats. He milked a small herd of Holstein cows and ran a small hog operation. After his work horses were gone, he kept a riding horse. In later years he had a herd of sheep to help keep the pasture down. The stock tank contained gold fish that grew large in the aerated water and were a stop on the tour for all visitors to the farm. As late as he was getting a tractor, he also avoided a combine as long as he could, staying with the neighborhood threshing ring as long as possible.

Evelyn and Ora left the farm in the fall of 1979 and held an auction in the spring of 1980. They moved into an apartment in Clarksville, forced by their declining health to make the move. Evelyn died of congestive heart failure May 26, 1985 in the Clarksville Nursing Home. Ora died six months later on December 5, 1985 in the Waverly hospital. They are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Shell Rock, Iowa beside their son, Dean, who died in 1952.

ED SEWELL WITH SONS, ORA AND ORRIN



The last and ninth child born to Ed and Lestina Sewell was Violet Sewell who was born April 7, 1904 at the farm south east of Shell Rock, Iowa. She, too, taught before becoming a farmer's wife. She married Reinhold S. Mack September 27, 1930 at the Little Brown Church at Nashua, Iowa. Reinhold was the son of a Lutheran Minister, Rev. Christian and Emma Bahrenburg Mack. Reinhold was born in Republican City, Nebraska January 31, 1909. They farmed eight years near Janesville where they were living when their son, Galen, was born October 5, 1934. They bought a farm east of Fayette, Iowa, on top of a low hill with the property bordered on the north by the Volga River. Here they lived until their deaths. Violet, like the rest of her brothers and sisters, made things with her hands. She sewed and used beads, etc., in crafts, but she also enjoyed the out of doors, hunting, trapping and fishing with Mack. Mack also did wood working. When the grandchildren were playing ball games, they were usually there. Mack cared for the greens at the golf course in his retirement. They were active members of the Methodist Church in Fayette.

Violet died October 28, 1980 in West Union just two months before her husband's death on Christmas Day 1980. They are buried at Grandview Cemetery at Fayette.

Thelma Wright was born February 17, 1911, the first child of Lena Sewell and Warren Wright, at Waterloo, Iowa. She was a teacher prior to her marriage. She married Bert Alfred Letchford on December 26, 1941 in Memphis, Missouri. Bert was born February 24, 1909 in Waterloo, the son of William Letchford and Grace Rogers Letchford. He worked at Rath Packing Company before World War II, where he served three years in the First Infantry in Germany as a driver for the Inspector General who was gathering evidence for the Nurenburg Trials. Returning after the war to Rath's, his career spanned nine years in the kill department, ten years in the pickle cellar, and twenty years as a guard. During this time Thelma raised their sons and a daughter and ran a grocery store in Dunkerton and in Jesup. They are of the Baptist faith. Since retirement, they have raised garedening to an art form, and done much woodworking, as well as playing duets on their two electric organs. They live at 202 Mulberry Street in Waterloo, the home formerly belonging to Alice Richardson Gibbs.Their three children, all born in Waterloo, are Gary Lee Letchford who was born December 3, 1942, Kathleen Ann Letchford who was born October 12, 1945, and Roy Lavern Letchford who was born March 4, 1947.

Melva Luella Wright was the second child born to Warren Winfield Wright and Lena Sewell Wright on December 15, 1919 at the farm northeast of Jesup. Her sister was eight years old when she was born. After high school at Jesup, she married Wilbur Clair Smith on July 22, 1940. Wilbur Clair is called "Clair". Clair was born May 15, 1919 at Terrill in Dickinson County, Iowa. He is the son of Ray Smith and Myrtle Blanche Babcock Smith. Clair served six years in the Navy during World War II, having two ships bombed out from under him. While living at Norfolk, Virginia they lost a daughter in infancy. Since his discharge from the Navy, they have farmed near Jesup. They are members of the Methodist Church, and have wintered in the south of Texas for some years. Their hobbies are ball room dancing and traveling, having been abroad several times They have two sons, Ray Warren Smith, born April 7, 1944 in Independence, Iowa and Leroy Clair Smith, born in Independence on August 8, 1951.

The first child of Eva Sewell and Halbert Loveland was Edna Mae Loveland. She was born May 15, 1919 in Janesville. Edna Mae died of appendicitis August 31, 1923 while the family lived in Fowler, Colorado.

The second child of Halbert Loveland and Eva Sewell Loveland was Vern Loveland. Vern was born April 21, 1921 in Bremer County, Iowa, and died July 8, 1976. He spent his adult life in Washington state, where he married Mildred --- December 6, 1949. Mildred died July 10, 1968 at Tacoma. Vern and Mildred had four children, all born in Tacoma. Mary Eva was born March 7, 1951 in Tacoma and married William Pitts July 7, 1969. Mary Eva has at least two daughters, Rebecca Pitts who was born August 21, 1972 and Carol Sue Pitts, born January 20, 1975. The second child is Richard Bruce Loveland who was born January 8, 1954. Joyce Mildred Loveland was born July 21, 1955, and lastly, James Martin Loveland who was born November 20, 1956. No further information is known on Vern's four children.

The third child born to Eva Sewell Loveland and Halbert Loveland is Ralph James Loveland. Ralph was born July 7, 1925 in Pueblo, Colorado. He married Ada Marie Davis August 3, 1947 in San Diego. Ada was born May 14, 1927 in Amarillo, Texas, the daughter of Frank Ada Davis and Marie Bernine Davis. She has retired from her career in bookkeeping and Ralph has retired as a Civil Engineer for the California D.O.T. His hobbies are skiing, bicycling and woodworking. Ralph and his wife live in LaMesa, California. They have two sons, Mark Randall Loveland who was born July 9, 1949 in San Diego, and Keith Allan Loveland, also born in San Diego, on September 13, 1951.

Roger Curtis Sewell was the first child born to Orrin Floyd Sewell and Mary Delana Whitney on October 23, 1919 in Bremer County, Iowa. He has made his home in Waterloo, Iowa where he and his wife raised the children, and Roger worked as a supervisor for the John Deere Tractor Works in Waterloo. Since his retirement, they have spent their winters in Zephyrhills-Lakeland area of Florida. Roger married Mary Kathryn Crawford on February 16, 1945. Mary is the daughter of Clarence Harrison Crawford and Jessie Ochs Crawford, born to them at Waterloo on October 2, 1919. They are active members of the United Presbyterian Church. Roger enjoys woodworking in his well equipped shop. Their children, all born in Waterloo, are: Rodney Allen Sewell, born November 5, 1948, Mary Jane Sewell, born January 16, 1951, and Kathryn Jean Sewell, born March 2, 1957. Roger has a son, Samuel Orrin Sewell, born January 4, 1941 from a marriage to Marjorie Severson.

Mildred Venus Sewell was born December 20, 1920 at Maynard, Iowa, the second child of Orrin and Mary Whitney Sewell. During high school she played baritone and French horn in the school band, a German band, and in the Upper Iowa College band. While a junior at Fayette High School she met John Chase and married him when she graduated. The wedding took place June 9, 1938 at the Little Brown Church near Nashua, Iowa. John LaVern Chase (Johnnie) is the son of John Alva Chase and Eva Pettit Chase and was born January 24, 1919 in Fayette, Iowa. Johnnie did inspections for the Home Insurance Company. They have lived in Mankato, Litchfield and Minneapolis, all in Minnesota. While in Litchfield, Mildred worked for a photography studio. They make their home now in Lake George, Minnesota, and Lakeland, Florida. They are the parents of three children, all born at Fayette: Geraldine Myrna Chase who was born October 10, 1939, Betty Jean Chase, born April 29, 1942, and John Orrin Chase who was born January 31, 1947.

The third child born to Orrin Sewell and Mary Whitney Sewell was Geraldine Lorena Sewell who was born October 23, 1922 near Maynard in Fayette County, Iowa. While a student at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, she met Joseph Anderson Burns,. who was also a student there. Joe was born September 20, 1921 in Bellevue, a suburb of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the child of Joseph Anthony Burns and Myral Sterrett Anderson Burns. They were married October 14, 1944 at the Methodist Church in Waverly, Iowa. Joe went on to Iowa

State University where he joined the Navy V-12 program, and was transferred to Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. From there he went to Mine Warfare School, after which he was assigned to a mine sweeper, sailed the South Pacific for the remainder of the war and was given an award for action beyond the call of duty. He finished his ceramic engineering course when he was discharged. Geri has taught in McCallsburg, Iowa and at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Pittsburgh. She has a degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Slippery Rock State in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. Geri's hobbies are sewing, reading and walking. She makes appliqued and pieced quilts for her grandchildren. Joe plays the piano, writes poetry and paints or sketches, when he isn't working on construction, plumbing, painting, cement and masonry. They have five children: Joseph Anthony Burns who was born December 18, 1946 in Ames, Iowa, Mary Sewell Burns who was born April 3, 1950 while they lived in Wellsville, Columbiana County, Ohio, Michael Sewell Burns who was born June 3, 1954 in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois, Daniel Orrin Burns, born April 17, 1956 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Robert Sewell Burns, born March 5, 1958 also in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Veral Whitney, the first of three sons born to Clive Whitney and Blanche Sewell Whitney, was born May 28, 1918 at Quimby, Cherokee County, Iowa. He married Ruth Frykland December 15, 1937. For some years Veral lived in the Chicago, Illinois area, but now makes his home in Oklawaha, Florida. He has a son, Wayne Lee Whitney who was born August 3, 1938.

The second child born to Clive C. Whitney and Blanche Sewell Whitney was Leland Aubrey Whitney at Cherokee, Iowa on October 31, 1920. Leland, called Lee, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, including assignments in Munich and Nurnburg, Germany. He married Doris M. Mitchell, the daughter of Edgar and Theresa Miller Mitchell on January 25, 1947 in Skokie, Illinois. Doris was born January 31, 1922 in Withrow, Washington and raised in the Lutheran faith. Discharged from the Army January, 1967, they made their home in Edmonds, Washington. They have two children: Craig Lee Whitney who was born September 13, 1947 and Kimberly Ann Whitney who was born March 3, 1949, both in Chicago. Doris died March 13, 1965 in Seattle, Washington and is buried at Ft. Lawton, Washington. Lee married Dorothy M. Hildebrand and they make their home in Friday Harbor, Washington. Lee retired in 1972 from his work as a stock broker. His hobby is as a 'ham' radio operator. He and Dorothy enjoy traveling.

Delbert Dwayne Whitney was born on October 18, 1932, the third son of Clive C. Whitney and Blanche Sewell Whitney at Cherokee, Iowa. He graduated from Niles Township High School in Skokie, Illinois. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany and France. He was married to the former Nancy Anne Metz on May 17, 1958 at the Ingomar Community Church in Ingomar, Pennsylvania. Nancy was born January 8, 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Roland Bingham Metz and Helen Mary Williams Metz. They make their home in Long Grove, Illinois, where they are members of the Long Grove United Church of Christ. Del is president of Whitney Lighting Associates, manufacturers representatives in the lighting industry. Among other endeavors Nancy is vice president of the Long Grove Park District. Del is an amateur radio operator with the call KB9WM. They are the parents of two sons: Grayden Dwayne Whitney born March 4, 1960 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Craig Matthew Whitney born January 17, 1968 in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Beverly Faye Sewell was born November 18, 1930 in Waverly, Iowa, the child of Ora O. Sewell and Evelyn Ruth Kimball Sewell. She attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, now known as University of Northern Iowa. She taught elementary school three years prior to her marriage. She married James Henry Nelson on May 28, 1952 at the Methodist Church in Shell Rock, Iowa. Jim is the son of Henry Nelson and Verdie Jones Nelson, born May 15, 1929 in Ft. Dodge, Iowa. After attending college, he was an announcer for several radio stations before serving in the U.S. Air Force in the Korean War. Stationed on Okinawa, he flew on B-29 bombing missions over North Korea. Following his discharge, he began working for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, now called U.S. West, and held management assignments in switching, toll, and computer network data in several towns in Iowa. Jim retired in February 1986, after a career of 33 years with the company. He has always managed the family farm in northwest Iowa. Beverly and Jim are the parents of three children. Deanne Sue Nelson was born February 11, 1954 in Des Moines, Iowa, Gene Henry Nelson was born May 7, 1956 in Des Moines, Iowa, and Brian William Nelson who was born November 9, 1960 in Storm Lake, Iowa. Jim and Bev are members of the Methodist Church and have lived in Ankeny, a suburb of Des Moines, Iowa since 1963.

Dean Elburn Sewell was born November 2, 1932 in Shell Rock, Iowa, the son of Ora O. Sewell and Evelyn Ruth Kimball Sewell. He graduated for Shell Rock High School in 1950 and enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve June 24, 1952 while he worked as a hired man for a farmer south of Waterloo, Iowa. Dean was killed instantly in a car accident August 17, 1952 in Grundy County, Iowa. He was a life time member of the Methodist Church, having been baptized as an infant in 1933. The obituary reads: "Dean was an ever thoughtful and loving son and brother. His kind cheerfulness to duty and his obliging ways endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact." He is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Shell Rock, Iowa near his parents and maternal grandparents.

Galen Donald Mack was born October 5, 1934 in Waverly, Bremer County, Iowa, the only child of Violet Sewell Mack and Reinhold S. Mack. He married Karen Jean Burrack March 2, 1958 in Arlington, Fayette County, Iowa. Karen is the daughter of Alfred Harley Burrack and Eva Mae Leonard Burrack and was born November 4, 1940. Galen is a coach and physical education teacher in the Valley of Elgin School District. He has a well equipped wood working shop, and produces many fine pieces. Karen is employed at the Elgin Echo Newspaper office. Galen and Karen are parents of six children. Randy Ray Mack was born September 17, 1958, Mickey Gay Mack born November 2, 1959, Kevin Jay Mack born September 25 1961, Candis Kay Mack born October 22, 1963, Curtis Ray Mack born August 27, 1965 and Holli Kay Mack born October 7, 1968. Galen and Karen live in Clermont, Iowa.

These are the children of Thelma Wright and Bert Letchford.

Gary Lee Letchford was born December 3, 1942 in Waterloo, Iowa, the first child of Bert and Thelma Wright Letchford. After high school, he attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and graduated with a degree in Music in 1965. He served two years in the Navy and six years in the Naval Reserve. On August 17, 1968 he married Patricia Cochell in Ottumwa, Iowa. Pat was born August 11, 1948 in Spokane, Washington. Pat has a degree in Art Education and is a commercial artist. Gary was a band director in the Lucas, Iowa School district where Pat taught fifth grade. They are parents of two daughters, and live in Longwood, Florida. Gary is in real estate, as is Pat. Gary's hobby is as a ham radio operator. Their daughters are Suzanna Kaye, born October 26, 1975 in Waterloo, Iowa and Kathryn Marie who was born April 21, 1978 in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Kathleen Ann Letchford was born October 12, 1945 in Waterloo, Iowa, the second child of Bert and Thelma Wright Letchford. She married Jim Harlow, and they have one daughter, Deanna Harlow. Kathleen and Jim later divorced. Kathleen graduated from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa with a degree in Sociology. She died August 8, 1989 in Council Bluffs,Iowa, where she had made her home with Deanna for some years.

Roy Lavern Letchford was born March 4, 1947 in Waterloo, Iowa, the last child of Bert and Thelma Wright Letchford. He graduated from U.N.I. in Education and is a teacher in the Comanche, Iowa school district. He married Sherry Carter, the daughter of K.C. Carter, on April 1, 1972. Sherry was born August 12, 1948. Sherry also teaches in Comanche. They are members of the Lutheran Church and have a son, Joshua, who was born May 16, 1984 in Comanche.

These are the children of Melva Wright and W. Clair Smith.

Ray Warren Smith was born April 7, 1944 in Independence, Iowa, the child of W.C. and Melva Wright Smith. He served four years in the U.S. Navy after high school. He married Jane Renner on October 4, 1969 at Waterloo. Jane is the daughter of Martin Renner and Nita Heinz Renner. Jane was born November 5, 1944 in Waterloo. She is an L.P.N. and a homemaker. Ray is a Sales Representative for the R.J. Reynolds Company in northeast Iowa. They live in Waterloo, and have two sons, Steven Scot Smith, born July 20, 1970 and Kevin Ray Smith, born August 16, 1972, both in Waterloo, Iowa.

Leroy Clair Smith was born August 8, 1951 in Independence, Iowa, the son of Clair and Melva Wright Smith. He served twenty years in the U.S. Navy where he was an Electronic Technician. He is married to Carol Kramer and they make their home in San Diego, California. They were married February 1, 1986. Leroy has children from his marriage to Debra Hutcherson. Debra is the daughter of Edward and Helen Kelly Hutcherson in Tennessee. Leroy's children are Angela Nicole Smith who was born February 13, 1972 at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, George Raymond Smith who was born March 8, 1974 while they lived on Guam, and Lena Pearl Smith who was born October 10, 1978 at San Diego, California.

SEWELL Eighth Generation

These are the children of Ralph and Ada Davis Loveland.

Mark Randall Loveland was born July 9, 1949 in San Diego, California, the first child of Ralph James Loveland and Ada Marie Davis Loveland. He married Kathleen Gormley in May 1988. Kathleen is the daughter of Hugh Hayden and Twyla Goldy Gormley and was born December 26, 1946 in Wenatchee, Washington. Mark is a consultant and Kathleen's career is as a Medical Technologist. They make their home in San Diego. Mark has two sons by a marriage to Marcy Jury. They are Mark Randall Loveland II who was born July 18, 1974 and Patrick Morgan Loveland who was born December 17, 1977.

The second child of Ralph James and Ada Marie Davis Loveland is Keith Allan Loveland who was born September 13, 1951 in San Diego. Keith is a teacher. He married Susan Elizabeth Butters June 20, 1987. Sue is the daughter of Thomas Butters and Dorthy Phingsten Butters. Sue was born June 14, 1958 in Libertyville, Ill. Keith and Sue have a daughter, Michelle Elizabeth Loveland who was born August 15, 1989 in Oceanside, California. They live in Carlsbad, California.

These are the children of Roger and Mary Crawford Sewell.

Rodney Allen Sewell was born November 5, 1948 in Waterloo, Iowa, the first child of Roger C. and Mary Crawford Sewell. Rodney received a B.A. degree from Upper Iowa University and a M.A. from Dubuque Seminary in 1979. He was ordained a minister in the United Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, Iowa on April 27, 1980. He served the Oskaloosa, Kansas church as pastor before accepting a call to the Presbyterian Headquarters in Aurora, Colorado, where he and his family make their home. Rodney married Rebecca Ann Rouse May 8, 1976 in Des Moines, Iowa. Becky was born April 30, 1953 , the daughter of George Alfred Rouse and Maurine Frances Kuefner Rouse. Becky graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She is a dietician. Rodney and Becky are the parents of a daughter, Annastasia Rebecca Sewell who was born April 23, 1981 at Lawrence, Kansas.

The second child of Roger and Mary Crawford Sewell is Mary Jane Sewell, called Janie. She was born January 16, 1951 in Waterloo, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and before her marriage, worked as a broadcaster at a televison station in Sioux City, Iowa. She used the name Jane Sewell on T.V., and now uses Jane Sewell Campbell as her professional name. She married William Lloyd Campbell August 7, 1982 in Sioux City, Iowa. Bill is the son of Denver Lloyd Campbell and Josephine Mae Olson Campbell. He was born July 17, 1956 in Spencer, Iowa. Bill is also in the news industry at the radio station in Spencer, Iowa. Jane is now in public relations, and they make their home in Spencer.

The third child of Roger and Mary Crawford Sewell is Kathryn Jean Sewell who was born March 2, 1957 in Waterloo, Iowa. She also graduated from U.N.I. where she majored in violin and continued to play with the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony. She married Jay Patrick Goodenbour August 2, 1980 in Waterloo, Iowa. Jay was born November 13, 1957 in Waterloo, the child of Lloyd Allen and Colleen Virginia Weidler Goodenbour. He received his degree in forestry from the University of Idaho. They have made their home in Oregon, Arkansas and Michigan while he is employed by International Paper Company. They have two children, Bridget Nichole Goodenbour born July 13, 1984 in Coos Bay, Oregon, and Micha Lee Goodenbour who was born July 26, 1987 at Arkedelphia, Arkansas. They make their home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SEWELL Eighth Generation

These are the children of Mildred Sewell and John Chase.

Geraldine Myrna Chase was born October 10, 1939 at Fayette, Iowa, the first child of John and Mildred Sewell Chase. She married George Henry William Johnson June 7, 1958 in Litchfield, Minnesota. George is a building supervisor, the son of Henry Johnson and Mabel Anderson Johnson, born August 6, 1933 in Litchfield, Minnesota. Gerry Myrna attended Hennepin Technical Center and is employed as a computer problem analyst. They have three children: John George Johnson was born in Litchfield, Minnesota April 25, 1959, Scott James Johnson who was born June 10, 1962 in Bloomington, Minnesota, and Rhonda Renee Johnson who was born March 4, 1965 and was adopted by George and Gerry. George and Gerry make their home in Minneapolis where they are members of the Alliance faith.

Ninth Generation

John George Johnson, the oldest child of Geraldine Myrna Chase Johnson and George Henry William Johnson, was born April 25, 1959 in Minneapolis. He married Deborah Louise Evans on April 3, 1982 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Deborah is the daughter of Bill Evans and Mary Daniels Evans. She was born in Leisure City, Florida May 7, 1961. They make their home in Minneapolis where John owns an Auto Body shop. They have a son, Jeremiah John, who was born in Minneapolis on June 6, 1986.

George and Gerri Johnson's second child, Scott James Johnson was born June 10, 1962 in Minneapolis. He is an auto repair specialist. He married Donnel Lincoln in 1982 and divorced two years later. On November 24, 1990 he married Ann Mae Ekman, the daughter of Jim and Agnes Roerich Ekman. Ann Mae, born Dec 4, 1967, is a scheduler in the District Facilities Office. Ann Mae has two daughters, Kara Faith Johnson born July 8, 1988 and Krystal Dawn Johnson born April 30, 1988. Scott and Ann Mae are members of the Lutheran faith and make their home in Minneapolis.

Rhonda Renee Johnson, born April 3, 1965, married March 27, 1981 in Minneapolis to Kyle Greenburg. Kyle was born January 14, 1961 to Clifford and Doris Greenburg. They have four children, all born in Minneapolis, Andrea Lynn born October 17, 1981, Melissa Elizabeth born April 14, 1983, Jonathan Kyle born November 5, 1985 and Anthony Charles Scott born September 28, 1988.

The second child of John and Mildred Sewell Chase is Betti Jean Chase who was born April 29, 1942 while they made their home in Fayette, Iowa. On June 10, 1961 Betti Jean married Martin Murl Holum in Litchfield, Minnesota. Martin is the son of Martin Holum and Myrtle Anderson Holum and was born July 6, 1942 in Minneapolis. Marty received a degree in Design Engineering at Chicago Vocational Training School. Betti Jean works as an Emotional Counselor after receiving training at the Mayo Clinic Community Health Center. They live in the Minneapolis suburbs where they are members of the Evangelical Free Church. They have two children: Martin John Holum who was born in Minneapolis January 29, 1966 and Lisa Colleen Delana Holum who was born November 8, 1967 and adopted by Marty and Betti.

Ninth Generation

Martin John Holum, the oldest child of Martin and Betti Jean Chase Holum, was born January 29, 1966 in Minneapolis. His wife, the former Lynn Marie Tiedmann was born October 14, 1964 in Zumbrota, Minnesota, the child of Merrell and Marilyn Budensiek Tiedmann. Martin and Lynn were married May 7, 1988. Martin is a Ford Parts Manager and Lynn is an instructor in a Vocational Institute. They live in Minneapolis and are members of the Evangelical Free Church. They have one daughter, Jessica Linette Holum, who was born June 3, 1990 in Minneapolis.

Martin and Betti Chase Holum's daughter, Lisa Colleen Delana Holum Beyerl is a cosmetologist. She is married to Mike Beyerl, an installation and service man. They married August 6, 1991. Mike's father is Peter Beyerl.

John Orrin Chase was born January 31, 1947 at Fayette, Iowa, the third child of John and Mildred Chase. He married Renee Ann Murdock in Bloomington, Minnesota on March 25, 1967. Renee is the daughter of Albert Holmes Murdock and Orpha Ione Reberge Murdock and was born May 16, 1949 in Minneapolis. John has a diploma from Pratt Whitney Customer Training for Heavy Maintenance and is employed by Northwest Airlines. Renee paints and designs jewelry. They are members of the Methodist Church. John and Renee have five daughters, all born in Bloomington, Minnesota: Cherie Renee Chase was born November 7, 1967, Rochelle Deanne Chase born November 10, 1969, Meridee Ann Chase born February 5, 1973, Charity Lynn Chase born February 10, 1976 and Angelique Amber Chase born October 6, 1979. Only Cherie is married as of this writing.

Ninth Generation

Cherie Renee Chase, the daughter of John Orrin and Renee Murdock Chase was born November 7, 1967 in Minneapolis. She married Steven Matthew Holum April 22, 1989 in Bloomington, Minnesota. Steven, the son of Jerry and Nancy Holum was born February 8, 1966, is a courier dispatcher. Cherie is with Habberts Furniture Store in the custom order department. They make their home in Minneapolis.

These are the children of Joseph and Geraldine Sewell Burns:

Joseph Anthony Burns was born December 18, 1946 in Ames, Iowa, the first child of Joseph Anderson Burns and Geraldine Lorena Sewell Burns. Joe, a mechanic, attended the University of Pittsburgh for three years, and makes his home in Pittsburgh. He married Elizabeth Canfield, Berna Herman, and has a daughter, Sarah Burns from his marriage to Elizabeth Gordon Davidow. Sarah was born January 29, 1978 in Berkley, California, and lives with her mother in San Francisco.

Mary Sewell Burns was born April 3, 1950 in Wellsville, Ohio, the second child of Joseph A. Burns and Geraldine L. Sewell Burns. Mary graduated from Bloomington State College in Indiana, is an artist and a counselor. Mary married William Cherry in 1969. She has a daughter, Elizabeth Hersey Holmes, who was born June 12, 1974 in Dunedin, Pinellas County, Florida, to Mary and William Halstead Hersey. Elizabeth is called "Libby." William Hersey was born April 2, 1945 to Rosco and Margaret Halstead Hersey. January 28, 1978 Mary married Peter Channing Holmes in State College, Centre County, Pennsylvania. Peter, an electrical engineer, was born June 29, 1955 in York, Pa., the son of Russell Judson Holmes and Martha Edna Baker Holmes. Mary, Peter, and Libby live in Paso Robles, California.

Michael Sewell Burns, the third child of Joseph Burns and Geraldine Sewell Burns, was born June 3, 1954 in Aurora, Kendall County, Illinois, while his parents lived in Downers Grove, Illinois. He is in the roofing business. He married Joyce Adele Teirnan October 18, 1975 in Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Joyce was born December 1, 1954 in Mercer, the daughter of Joseph Focer Teirnan and Virginia Booth Schell Teirnan. Michael and Joyce have a daughter, Rachel Leigh Burns, who was born May 2, 1976 in Grove City, Mercer County, Pa. Mike lives in Mercer. Rachel is with her mother in Texas during the school year.

The fourth child of Joseph and Geraldine Burns is Daniel Orrin Burns who was born April 17, 1956 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He, too, is in the roofing business. He married August 20, 1977 in Morrill, Waldo County, Maine, Deborah Lee Gibbs. Deborah was born October 13, 1956 in Belfast, Maine, the daughter of Merlon Everett Gibbs and Gloria Marie Lavway Gibbs. Dan and Debbie live in Mercer, where Debbie is a teacher. They are members of the Living Word Fellowship Church and have three children, Jessica Lynn Burns born November 1, 1978 in Clarion, Pa., Amy Jo Burns born July 22, 1981 in Greenville, Pa., and Jacob Daniel

Burns who was born March 3, 1983 in Greenville, Pennsylvania.

Robert Sewell Burns, the fifth child of Joseph A. Burns and Geraldine Lorena Sewell Burns, was born March 5, 1958 in Bellevue, Pittsburgh, Pa. He married Dorothy Renee Pflugh June 28, 1980 in New Wilmington, Lawrence County, Pa. Dorothy, Dottie, was born May 20, 1955 in New Brighten Beaver County, Pa. to John Frederick Pflugh and Doris Louise Carson Pflugh. Dottie is a Social Worker, and Bob is in the roofing business in Mercer. They have three children, all of whom were born in Greenville, Pa., Joshua Robert Burns born May 12, 1983, Andrea Renee Burns born October 16, 1985, and David Andrew Burns born on May 23, 1988. They are members of the Living Word Fellowship Protestant Church in Mercer, where they live.

These are the children of Leland Aubrey Whitney and Doris Mitchell Whitney.

Craig Lee Whitney was born to Leland A. Whitney and Doris M. Mitchell Whitney in Chicago, Illinois on September 13, 1947. As a child he lived in Germany where his dad was in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, with a B.S. degree in education. In 1967, he married Sharon Potter. A daughter, Sherri Lee Whitney, was born February 6, 1968. Craig married Sharon Lou Herbert on August 11, 1973. Sharon is the daughter of Ivan and Hazel Herbert. Craig is athletic director for the Columbia Missouri Junior High School, and he coaches several sports. Sharon teaches high school history subjects near Columbia. They are the parents of three children: Brayden Delbert Whitney born March 19, 1975, Matthew Herbert Whitney born August 28, 1979 and Jennifer Lynn Whitney born January 21, 1987. They make their home in Columbia.

Kimberly Ann Whitney was born March 3, 1949 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, the child of Leland and Doris Mitchell Whitney. Part of her childhood was spent in Germany where her family lived until returning to the U.S. Kim married Roy Dean Spring on June 15, 1969 in Seattle, Washington. Roy was born December 1, 1948 in Bend, Oregon. Roy is the son of Meryl Taylor and Donna Jean Taylor. He was adopted by Charles T. Spring, who was married to Donna in 1961. Kim and Roy were graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle, and they make their home in Snohomish. Kim is an elementary school teacher in Everett and a free-lance writer for education magazines. Roy served in the U.S. Army, 1968-1970, and he now works as a scheduler for Boeing Aircraft in Everett. Kimberly and Roy have two sons born in Seattle: Adam Christopher Spring who was born September 3, 1976 and Joel Michael Spring who was born June 16, 1978. The family is active in the Christian church.

These are the children of Delbert Dwayne Whitney and Nancy Anne Metz Whitney.

Grayden Dwayne Whitney was born March 4, 1960 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of Delbert Dwayne Whitney and Nancy Anne Metz Whitney. Gray is a graduate of the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, with a B.S. degree in Marketing. He lives in Delafield, Wisconsin, where he is vice president of Whitney Lighting Associates. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, skiing, and boating.

Craig Matthew Whitney, the second son of Delbert and Nancy Whitney, was born January 17, 1968 in Lake Forest, Illinois. He is a graduate of the University of Idaho, where he majored in Communications, and is single.

These are the children of Beverly Sewell Nelson and James Nelson.

Deanne Sue Nelson was born to Beverly Sewell Nelson and James Henry Nelson in Des Moines, Iowa on February 11, 1954. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa with a degree in Elementary Education. She earned two master degrees from Drake University in Des Moines, one in Curriculum Instruction and one in Special Education. She is a Multi-categorical Resource Teacher in the Ankeny Community School system in Ankeny, Iowa. Dea married Jerry William Green August 2, 1975 at the United Methodist Church in Ankeny. Jerry was born September 17, 1954 in Des Moines, the son of George Green and Audrey Mae Huston Green. Deanne and Jerry have an adopted daughter, Abigail Elizabeth Green who was born May 16, 1987. Jerry is District Sales Representative for the Keelor Steel Company. Their home is in Johnston, Iowa.

Gene Henry Nelson, the second child of James and Beverly Sewell Nelson, was born May 7, 1956 in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. He has a B.A. in Health Education from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He married Lisa Schmidt in 1985, and has one son, Chase Brandon James Nelson who was born March 3, 1986 in Plano, Texas, while Gene worked for North American Cabinet Company in Marshall, Texas. Lisa is the daughter of Richard and Helen Schmidt of Plymouth, Minnesota. Gene (Chip) is an Accounts Manager for Weyerhaeuser Paper Company Container Division. He is divorced and lives in Johnston, Iowa. He enjoys downhill skiing and boating.

Brian William Nelson, the third child of Jim and Beverly Nelson, was born November 9, 1960 in Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, Iowa. He, too, graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a B.S. in Industrial Technology. He married Joan Elizabeth Bailey, the daughter of Virgil R. Bailey and Mary Catherine Mottet Bailey, September 1, 1984 at the St. Patricks Catholic Church in Ottumwa, Iowa. He worked as an Industrial Engineer for Norplex Oak in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and now is a Sales Representative for Honeywell Corporation in Des Moines, Iowa. Joni, born September 16, 1960, is a consumer lending processor for a financial institution. Brian and Joni have a son, Alexander Baird Nelson, who was born August 1, 1990 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. They live in Ankeny.

These are the children of Galen and Karen Burrack Mack.

Randy Ray Mack, the oldest of six children of Galen Donald Mack and Karen Jean Burrack Mack, was born September 17, 1958 at Manchester, Iowa. Graduating with a Master's Degree in Fisheries Research Biology from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, he now works for the Iowa Conservation Commission as a Fisheries Biologist at Manchester, Iowa. He married Jill Audrey Seabrooke on November 25, 1977 at Clermont, Iowa. Jill is the daughter of Alan Arthur Seabrooke and Janann Marie Mork Seabrooke. She was born March 28, 1958 at Postville, Iowa. Jill has a real estate license and enjoys sewing. Randy and Jill are the parents of three sons: Christian Jaren Mack was born March 4, 1980 at Ames, Iowa, Joshua Benjamin Mack born September 16, 1981 at Ames, Iowa, and Shannon Timothy Mack, born April 24, 1984 at Iowa City, Iowa. They are members of the United Methodist Church in Manchester. Joshua died June 20, 1991 in Iowa City following a five year treatment for leukemia. He is buried at Oakland Cemetery in Manchester, Iowa.

The second child of Galen and Karen Burrack Mack is Mickey Gay Mack. Mick was born November 2, 1959 at Manchester, Iowa. He married Stacey Louise Cline December 22, 1979 at Elgin, Iowa. Stacey is the daughter of Harry Leslie Cline and Marlys Cecelia Wenger Cline. Stacey and Mick both graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa, she with a degree in Elementary Education and he with a Physical Education degree. He holds a Master in Physical Education from U.N.I. Mick and Stacey have two children, Dustin James Mack was born December 28, 1983 in Waverly, Iowa and Lindsey Louise Mack born February 16, 1986, also in Waverly. Their home is in Janesville, Iowa where Mick is on the school faculty.

Kevin Jay Mack was born September 25, 1961 at Manchester, Iowa, the third child of Galen and Karen Burrack Mack. Kevin has a degree in Diesel Mechanics from Hawkeye Technical Institute in Waterloo, Iowa. He drives semi-trucks out of state. He enjoys fishing, snowmobiling, and riding his motorcycle when he is not busy with his trucking job. He lives on the Reinhold and Violet Mack farm at Fayette, Iowa.

The first daughter, but the fourth child, of Galen and Karen Burrack Mack is Candis Kay Mack. Candis was born October 22, 1963 at Manchester, Iowa. She graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa with a degree in Elementary Education. She is married to Scott Alan Frieden and teaches school in Postville, Iowa. They married June 9, 1984 in Clermont, Iowa. Scott was born August 20, 1962 at Postville, Iowa, the son of Roger Benjamin Frieden and Sharnel Rothlisberger Frieden. Scott is a grain farmer and raises hogs and beef cattle. Candis and Scott live on the farm with their son, Brooks Scott Frieden, who was born December 23, 1989 at West Union, Iowa. They enjoy golfing and going to the University of Iowa football games in their spare time.

The fifth child of Galen and Karen Burrack Mack is Curtis Ray Mack, born October 27, 1965 at Manchester, Iowa. He, as his brothers and sister before him, was active in athletics during his high school career. At Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa he majored in Leisure Services. He currently is manager of Brown Motor Company in Perry, Iowa. He is married to Samantha June Lane who was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, the daughter of James Edward Lane and Janice Rae Harmon Lane. The wedding ceremony was held June 15, 1991 in Muscatine, Iowa. Samantha is a graduate of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Holli Kay Mack was born October 7, 1968, the sixth child of Galen Mack and Karen Burrack Mack. She is a beautician, having graduated from Universal Cosmetology College in Decorah, Iowa. She is presently employed as a salesperson of videos out of Postville, and travels northeast Iowa. Her home is in Elgin, Iowa.

SELECTED CENSUS RECORDS

1810 Census of Botetourt County, Virginia

head of Family Thomas Sewell

1820 Kanawha County, Virginia No township listed

William Sewell	2	free white males under 10
	1	free white male 10 to 16
	1	free white male 26 to 45
	2	free white females under 10
	1	free white female 10 to 16
	1	free white female 26 to 45

1830 Pee Pee Twp., Pike Co., Ohio

Thomas Sewell	1	free white male 0 to 5
	1	free white male 20 to 30
	1	free white male 26 to 45
	1	free white female 0 to 5
	1	free white female 20 to 30

1850 7th District, Boon County, Indiana

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Thomas J. Sewell	42 yrs	M	farmer $1200	b.Va.
Margaret Sewell	42	F		b.O.
Allen Sewell	20	M	school teacher	b.O.
William Sewell	17	M	laborer	b.O.
Samuel Sewell	14	M		b.Ind.
Mary E. Sewell	11	F		b.Ind.
Thomas J. Sewell	9	M		b.Ind.
Sylvester Sewell	7	M		b.Ind.
Margaret Sewell	6	F		b.Ind.
James M. Sewell	2	M		b.Ind.

SELECTED REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS

Marion County, Indiana Plat Book 1821-1836
Thomas Jefferson Sewell
?w NE Sec 22 Twp 16 N Rge 5 E 40 A Sept 2, 1833
SE SE Sec 15 Twp 16 N Rge 5 E 40 A Jan 14, 1835

Pleasant Twp., Wabash Co., Ind. (Michigan Roads Land)
William Sewell
Se 1/4 Sec 15 Twp 29 Rge 6 E 101.56 A Mar 10, 1836

BREMER COUNTY, IOWA

Original land grant from U.S. Government to Thomas J. Sewell: NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 60 A at $1.25 per A. July 8, 1853 $11.38 cost.

Thomas J. Sewell to Berlin E. Shields May 7, 1854

Thomas Jefferson Sewell to Andrew Darley January 12, 1854

Thomas Jefferson Sewell to Thomas V. Axtell April 29, 1854

Thomas Jefferson Sewell to John Martin August 26, 1854

Samuel Sewell sold to Allen Sewell and wife June 30, 1856

Samuel Sewell to William Sewell and wife June 30, 1856

William Sewell to Samuel Sewell June 30, 1856

Thomas Jefferson Sewell to Allen Sewell 7 parcels of land December 7, 1858

Allen Sewell to Thomas J. Sewell December 11, 1860

William Sewell to Thomas J. Sewell January 2, 1861

Thomas Jefferson Sewell to Allen Sewell and wife August 9, 1864

BLACK HAWK COUNTY (IOWA) ORIGINAL LAND RECORDS
CHARLES McCAFFREE

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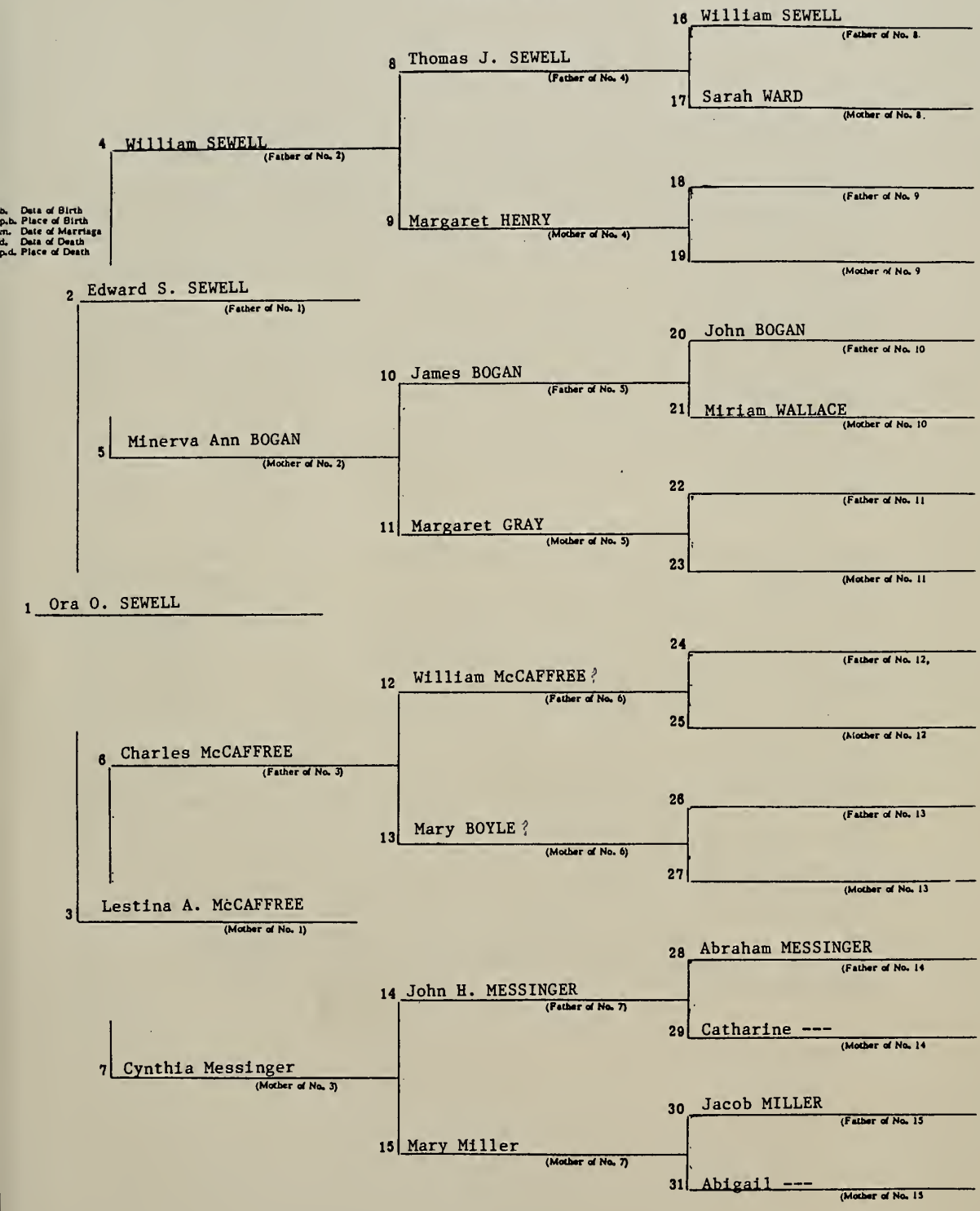
6-1-1852	NW1/4 SW1/4	Sec 5	88N	12W	26 A.
6-1-1852	W1/2 NE 1/4	Sec 5	88N	12W	52 A.
6-1-1852	NW1/4	Sec 5	88N	12W	104 A.
5-4-1852		Sec 8	88N	12W	70 A.

Ancestor Chart



B O G A N

From Ireland, the Bogan name was introduced into the eastern United States in the vicinity of Maryland, and the immigrants settled in Virginia. As to the name Bogan, two forms, Bogan and Boggan, appear to be synonymous, neither being confined to one of the two parts of Ireland in which the name is found. In the earliest official birth registration, Bogan was the more usual in northwest Ulster. Boggan and Boggin was the normal County Wexford form where The Griffiths Valuation,, a series on tax valuations in Ireland, recorded no less than thirty-nine householders called Boggan. In a map of County Donegal prepared by the late Mr. J.C. MacDonagh, Bogan seems to be well established in the eastern part of the county. The Irish form is O'Bogain, derived presumably from the adjective 'Bog' (soft).

Some of the clan ventured westward through Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio on their way to Indiana. They were reported to be in Clinton County, Ohio shortly after 1830. From there they moved to Kirk's Crossing (later to be known as Kirklin) Indiana where Nathan Kirk had filed the first land title on the Michigan Road as soon as it was established. By 1837, the Bogans had become landed farmers, having bought government land at $1.25 per acre.

Andrew Bogan is the earliest known ancestor to come to the United States, and in 1784 he is listed as residing in Rockingham County, Virginia. He had a household of eight "white souls". Presumably this included himself, his wife and six children. Only two of the children have been identified, John and William. By 1790, Andrew Bogan is listed in the U.S. Census as living in Woodstock, Shenandoah County, Virginia, where he is a farmer. It is believed he died in Virginia. His wife's name is unknown. Of the two sons of Andrew, John and William Bogan, William married Elizabeth Pullen, and had nine children, four boys and five girls.

BOGAN Second Generation

John Bogan, the son of the immigrant Andrew Bogan, married Miriam Wallace and had four sons and four daughters. John served in the War of 1812 in the 4th Virginia Militia. He is listed on the Honor Roll of Civil War Veterans. He is buried in Kirklin Cemetery, located at the corner of Perry and Monroe Streets in Kirklin, Clinton County, Indiana.

The children of John Bogan and Miriam Wallace Bogan are:

1: James Bogan
born 1800 Virginia
married Margaret Gray
died ca 1857 Clinton County, Indiana

2: Andrew Bogan

3: David Bogan

4: William Bogan

5: Elizabeth Bogan

6: Nancy Bogan

7: Polly Bogan

8: Jennie Bogan

BOGAN Third Generation

John and Miriam Wallace Bogan's oldest son, James Bogan, was born in 1800 in Virginia. He married Margaret Gray, who was also born in Virginia. They became the parents to six sons, and two daughters. At some point they removed to Clinton County, Indiana, where James died in 1857. In the 1850 U.S. Census, Margaret Bogan owned land in Clinton County, Indiana valued at $400, and is listed as the head of the household. If James died in 1857 as is written, where was he that she was the head of the household in 1850? In this census are 18 year old Linsey, 16 year old Manerva (note the spelling), 12 year old George and 10 year old John C., living with her. Four older children have already left home. John C. must be known in later years as 'Carlin'. Most of the children of James and Miriam Bogan remained in Indiana. Minerva Ann, born in 1834, married William Sewell, and, as it says in a history of the Bogans of Indiana, "she moved west" and nothing further was known about her.

The children of James Bogan and Margaret Gray Bogan are:

1: Patterson Bogan born December 11, 1824

2: Andrew Bogan born July 24, 1826

3: Mary Jane Bogan born May 21, 1828

4: David Bogan born January 9, 1830

5: Lindsey Bogan born January 10, 1832

6: Minerva Ann Bogan born July 14, 1834
Clinton County, Ohio
married December 7, 1851
Clinton County, Indiana
to William Sewell
died October 25, 1925 Shell Rock, Iowa

7: George Bogan born June 9, 1837

8: John Carlin Bogan born September 3, 1840

Minerva Ann Bogan was born July 14, 1834 in Clinton County, Ohio to James and Margaret Gray Bogan. She was called Ann. As a small child, she moved with her parents to Clinton County, Indiana. She united with the Christian Church when she was 15 years old. She married William Sewell December 7, 1851 in Clinton County, Indiana. When William's parents, Thomas and Margaret Sewell, left Indiana for Iowa in 1853, William and Minerva Ann and William's brother, Allen, and his wife, traveled with them. They homesteaded in Jackson Township, Bremer County. In this time, when a girl married and moved with her husband to another state, she very often lost contact with her parents. William farmed and had a veterinary practice near Janesville in Bremer County.

Minerva Ann and William Sewell had nine children. William died in 1917 at the age of 84 years, and Minerva Ann lived another eight years, dying at age 91 years on October 25, 1925 at the home of her son, E.S. Sewell. Her obituary reads "She was a good neighbor, friend, wife and mother." The Rev. C.G. Port, pastor of the M.E. Church in Shell Rock, was in charge of the service. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery in Shell Rock, Butler County, Iowa. A dressy black dress, bonnet and bag belonging to Ann Sewell are in the possession of a great great grandchild.

Children of Minerva Ann Bogan Sewell and William Sewell.

1: Homer A. Sewell born June 9, 1854 Janesville, Iowa
married January 13, 1875
to Mary Hamilton
died January 17, 1921 Shell Rock, Iowa

2: Eva Tabitha Sewell born March 30, 1857 Janesville, Iowa
married 1901 to Will Johnson
died 1941 Shell Rock, Iowa

3: Ida Jane Sewell born 1860 Janesville, Iowa
married April 7, 1877
to O.J. Wheeler
2nd to Theodore Zimmerman
died October 21, 1931 Hull, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

4: Edward S. Sewell born June 12, 1863 Janesville, Iowa
married November 25, 1886
to Lestina Amelia McCaffree
2nd to Helena Hazlitt
died October 25, 1936 Waverly, Iowa

5: Mary Leila Sewell born 1867, died 1867
Janesville, Iowa

6: Alice V. Sewell born February 3, 1868 Janesville, Ia.
married George Richardson
2nd Fred J. Gibbs
died 1965 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

7: William A. Sewell born April 11, 18--
Janesville, Iowa
married April 15, 1903 to Lucinda Paul
died 19--

8: Rosa C. Sewell born April 24, 1871
Janesville, Iowa
married April 7, 1896
to Will Arthur Puffer
died June 11, 1856 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

9: Ora Gertrude Sewell born November 15, 1876
Janesville, Iowa
married June 1898 to Frank A. Stolp
died 1952
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

MINERVA ANN BOGAN SEWELL

The fourth child of William Sewell and Minerva Ann Bogan Sewell was EDWARD S. SEWELL, who was born June 12, 1863, married Lestina Amelia McCaffree on November 25, 1886, and died October 25, 1936.

The children of Edward and Lestina Sewell are the FIFTH generation of BOGANS.

They are LEE, LENA, ILA, EVA, ORRIN, BLANCHE, HILDA, ORA, and VIOLET SEWELL. For further information on them and their children, see the SEWELL chapter.

The first white settlement made by a white man in Bremer County, Iowa was by Charles McCaffree, who took up a claim to the whole of Section 34, Township 91, Range 13, on what later became known as Quarter Section Run, in Jefferson Township. He put up a log cabin in a small grove, a short distance from a creek. The first year he broke about fifty acres of sod and planted the greater part of it in corn and was most satisfactorily rewarded in being able to garner a bountiful crop. In the History of Bremer County Charles McCaffree is quoted as saying, "I commenced work in Bremer County about the 5th of May, 1845."

McCAFFREE LOG CABIN taken from Waverly, Iowa Newspaper.

CABIN — This was the McCaffree log house in 1845 located in the woods between what is now Janesville and Denver. It was moved to and displayed at the fairgrounds in Waverly in 1910.

About this time Jerry O'Connor joined McCaffree in the settlement and made claim to all of section 33, contiguous to McCaffree and the two lone pioneers kept bachelor's hall. O'Connor broke five acres which he enclosed with a rail fence. He also raised a good crop of corn, but it is said of him that he was peculiar in his habits and had an abhorrence to washing his shirt.

That winter, McCaffree walked to Scott County, Iowa where his mother and brother, Isaac, were. The 1830 and 1840 Scott County Census show a William McAffrey. It is supposed he is Charles's father. A Mary McCaffrey married a William Thompson in Scott County in 1843. In the 1870 census she is 53 years old and says she was born in Kentucky, as was Charles. And she named her son Charles. This Mary must be a sister of Charles. Charles wintered in Scott County. The next spring, 1846, he returned to Bremer County, taking his mother, who is not referred to by name, and his brother, Isaac, with him. It is assumed his mother was widowed at this time if she traveled with Charles and Isaac to Bremer County. The first marriage in Bremer County was Isaac's marriage to Rebecca Beelah. Isaac went on to Missouri and then to Kansas where he has many descendants. It has not been determined what became of the mother.

Charles had come a long way from his birthplace of Jefferson County, Kentucky July 16, 1816. The wanderlust took him to be a boat hand on the Mississippi River, then he spent a short time in Missouri. From there, he went to Lee County, Iowa. Shortly after his arrival in Bremer County, several more families, Allen, Miller, McRobert, James, Frady, and Fisher made claims and erected cabins. In 1850 there were only fifteen families in the county, consisting of the Messingers, Tibbitts, Fees, Samples, Colliers, Beelahs, Dows, Trumbos (or Trimbo), and Clarks. The nearest post office was Cedar Falls. The Indians in the 'Big Woods' were not in any way hostile, even though they occassionally stole a few chickens or pigs from the settlers. In the spring of 1851 it rained more or less for thirty-nine days in succession. The whole county was flooded and it was almost impossible to get to a neighbors, much less to a mill.

Among the early settlers to arrive was the John Hill Messinger family. They had come from Acton, Marion County, Indiana by ox team. A married son, Elias, and the George Tibbets family were among the traveling party. Cynthia Messinger, the sixth child of John H. Messinger, married Charles McCaffree September 7, 1848. It was necessary to go to Independence thiry miles across prairies to be married. To this union were born ten children.

The children of Charles McCaffree and Cynthia Messinger McCaffree.

1: William Hardin McCaffree
born June 11, 1849 Janesville, Iowa
married January 5, 1870
to Louisa R. Sailor
died April 30, 1920 Waverly Junction, Iowa

2: Floyd Jefferson McCaffree
born February 7, 1851 Janesville, Iowa
married April 8, 1873
to Rachel E. Stratton
died December 28, 1937 Scottsbluff, Nebraska

3: Mary Caroline McCaffree
born November 28, 1852 Black Hawk County, Ia.
married October 10, 1881
to R. Winfield Cuffel
died March 20, 1934 Waverly, Iowa
buried Lake Mills, Winnebago Co., Iowa

4: Hanna Retta Ann McCaffree
born March 9, 1855 Putnam County, Missouri
married July 14, 1875
to John Morris Dewey
died July 2, 1925 Janesville, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

5: Laura Alena McCaffree
born April 26, 1857 Sullivan County, Missouri
married January 29, 1881
to Thomas J. Auner
died May 18, 1924 Winfield, Kansas

6: John Wesley McCaffree
born August 17, 1859 Sullivan County, Mo.
married October 13, 1880 Waverly, Iowa
to Ann Elizabeth Sailor
died June 18, 1938 Cedar Falls, Iowa

7: Lestina Amelia McCaffree
born April 20, 1862 Janesville, Iowa
married November 26, 1886
to Edward S. Sewell
died September 4, 1947 Oelwein, Iowa
buried Janesville, Iowa

8: Lewis Alpheus McCaffree
born April 14, 1864 Janesville, Iowa
married September 25, 1892 Cherokee, Iowa
to Esther Patton
died March 18, 1939 Nickerson, Kansas

9: Owen Orby McCaffree
born September 7, 1867 Janesville, Iowa
married September 14, 1898
to Katherine V. Stockwell
died November 13, 1938 Newton, Iowa

10: Cyrus Elbert McCaffree
born February 1, 1869 Waverly Junction, Iowa
married December 23, 1891
to Janie Rebecca Price
died August 15, 1948 Lake Mills, Iowa

CHARLES AND CYNTHIA MESSINGER McCAFFREE

5 — The Waverly Democrat, Waverly, Iowa, July 1, 1976

AMONG FIRST — The first white settler in Bremer County was Charles McCaffree in 1845. In 1848 he married Cynthia Messinger near Independence.

Mc CAFFREE

In the 1870 U.S. Census, page 85, Jackson township in Bremer County, Iowa, Charles McCaffree is 54 years old, farms, and has real estate valued at $3,500. His personal estate is valued at $2,100. Cynthia is 42 years old and keeping house. Living in the home with them are William, 20, Floyd, 19, Mary, 17, Hanna, 15, Laura, 13, John, 10, Lestina, 8, Lewis, 6, Owen, 4, and Cyrus, 1 year old.

McCAFFREE FAMILY 1885 (Some were known by their middle name, not their first name.) Left to right: Elbert, Mary, Laura, Hardin, Lewis, Cynthia (mother), John, Floyd, Lestina, Hannah, Owen

Missouri had been admitted to the Union as a slave state in 1821. Economic and political issues intensified during the years McCaffree lived there. Hanna, Laura and John were born there between 1855 and 1859. With the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, the Civil War was imminent. Charles McCaffree hated slavery, and the Missourians, learning of his sentiments against their 'peculiar institution', made his further stay among them not only undesirable, but also very uncomfortable. Charles moved his family of six children back to Bremer County, Iowa in 1862 by team and wagon, a trip taking several weeks. They lived there for ten years before his death at age fifty-five in 1871.

Cynthia died January 28, 1898, almost sixty-nine years old, at her home in Waverly. All of her children except Mary were with her when she died. The Rev. DeWitt Clinton officiated at the funeral in the M.E. Church. Her six sons were pallbearers. In the obituary printed in the Waverly, Iowa paper it states: "The deceased was a member of the Methodist Church and a most worthy woman. It will be seen that she came to Bremer County during the year when Iowa was admitted to the Union as a State. Her life must have been an eventful one. The family of ten children reared to honorable and useful manhood and womanhood under such difficulties and hardships as were incident to frontier life will be her best and most lasting monument."

Charles and Cynthia Messinger McCaffree are buried in the Jefferson Cemetery south of Denver, Black Hawk County, Iowa. In the same cemetery are Cynthia's parents, John and Mary Messinger.

Lestina Amelia McCaffree was the seventh child born to Charles and Cynthia Messinger McCaffree on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1862 in Bremer County, Iowa. Lestina was called "Tiny", not only because it is a short version of her name, but she was of a diminutive stature.

She taught school before her marriage at age 24 years to Edward S. Sewell on November 26, 1886 in Bremer County, Iowa. Ed was the son of William and Minerva Ann Bogan Sewell. He was born June 12, 1863 in Bremer County. They lived on a farm there, except for a short time in Missouri, having a family of nine children, seven of whom lived to maturity. Lestina and Ed divorced in 1930.

Lestina is buried at Janesville, Iowa near her two children who died young. In 1987, two of Lestina's granddaughter's husbands raised the headstone which had sunk over the years.

LESTINA AMELIA McCAFFREE SEWELL in her later years.

Children of Edward S. and Lestina McCaffree Sewell:

1: Lee Sewell born Sept 18, 1887 Janesville, Iowa
died August 23, 1888 Janesville, Iowa

2: Lena Sewell born August 20, 1888 Janesville, Iowa
married November, 25 1908 to Warren W. Wright
died October 18, 1977 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Jesup, Iowa

3: Ila Sewell born July 17, 1890 Janesville, Iowa
married December 23, 1914 Janesville, Iowa
to Earl C. Gibson
died April 5, 1973
Sand Point, Idaho

4: Eva Sewell born January 4, 1892 Janesville, Iowa
married March 15, 1917 Janesville, Iowa
to Halbert James Loveland
died April 18, 1988 Tacoma, Washington

5: Orrin Sewell born February 9, 1896 Dade County, Mo.
married September 2, 1917 Janesville, Iowa
to Mary D. Whitney
died October 31, 1986 Bemidji, Minn.
buried Maynard, Iowa

6: Blanche Sewell born February 22, 1898 Dade County, Mo.
married November 29, 1917 Waterloo, Iowa
to Clive Whitney
died January 26, 1967 Tacoma, Wash.
buried Gibsonia, Penn.

7: Hilda Sewell born February 21, 1900 Janesville, Iowa
died August 31, 1905 Janesville, Iowa

8: Ora Sewell born February 20, 1902 Janesville, Iowa
married June 1, 1924 Cedar Falls, Iowa
to Evelyn R. Kimball
died December 5, 1985 Waverly, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

9: Violet Sewell born April 7, 1904 Janesville, Iowa
married September 27, 1930 Nashua, Iowa
to Reinhold S. Mack
died October 28, 1980 West Union, Iowa
buried Fayette, Iowa

LESTINA SEWELL with grandchildren, back row, Melva and Thelma Wright, front row, Delbert Whitney, Lestina, Dean and Beverly Sewell.

The ship Johnson with David Crockett, Master from Rotterdam, last from Deal, docked in the port of Philadelphia in 1732. Among others on board were Johannes (John) Moessinger, his wife Maria, and their four children: Michael, Elizabeth, Paul and Jacob. They were of German descent. Their ancestors had lived along the Rhine River. Johannes Moessinger took the oath of allegiance to his new country on September 19, 1732.

They settled first in Oley, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Later the family lived in Bucks County, before removing to Northampton County, which was formed from Bucks County, in 1752. Here John Moessinger had a grist mill.

MESSINGER Second Generation

Michael Messinger, the son of John and Maria Moessinger, was born November 10, 1719 in Basel, Switzerland. He was thirteen years old when he came to America with his parents. He married Catharina Abel about 1743, probably at Oley, Pennsylvania. Catharina was born April 23, 1723. Michael and Catharina Abel Messinger had ten children and raised them in Forks Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Catharina died when she was 62 years old on July 1, 1785 in Forks Township.

Children of Michael and Catharina Abel Messinger all probably born in Forks Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, except the oldest ones.

1: Mary Messinger born March 14, 1744
married Peter Kocher

2: John Messinger born April 7, 1746
married Elizabeth Wilhelm

3: Jacob Messinger born April 21, 1748
married Maria Maur
2nd to Margareth ---
died December 16, 1801 Forks Twp.

4: George Messinger born 1755
married Catherine Babb

MESSINGER Second Generation

5: Elizabeth Messinger born October 24, 1757
married George Stecher

6: Daniel Messinger birth date unknown
married Elizabeth ---

7: Michael Messinger,Jr. born March 31, 1759
married Nov. 10,1782 to Elizabeth Sigman
2nd to widow Elizabeth Stocher
died December 31, 1842 Forks Twp.

8: Henry Messinger born January 1762
died April 6, 1764

9: Abraham Messinger born about 1764
married Catherine ---
died September 30, 1834
Franklin Township, Marion County, Ind.

10: Catherine Messinger born August 27, 1767
married Frederick Wilhelm

Michael Messinger purchased from the heirs of William Penn a tract of five hundred acres along Bushkill Creek in Forks Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1771. In 1933, Michael's descendants still owned about three hundred acres of the original tract, which was located near what is now the village of Tatamy.

After Catharina's death in 1785, Michael then married the widow of Michael Butz, Mrs. Elizabeth Butz, of Bucks County. Elizabeth Butz was born July 11, 1730. Her maiden name was Weber or Weaver. The Rev. Frederick Herman officiated at the marriage ceremony on January 9, 1787.

Michael Messinger was a farmer and he owned a mill. He lived to 71 years, dying October 24, 1791 in Forks Township. His will, dated May 23, 1791, was proved November 10, 1791. His second wife, Elizabeth, survived him. Michael is buried beside his first wife, Catharina, in the burial ground adjoining the Arndt and Messinger Church, which is near Bushkill Park in Forks Township, about two miles north of Easton, Pennsylvania, in a rural area. Michael was one of the donors of land for the burial ground that adjoins the church. The burial ground was laid out in 1755, and the first church was erected in 1826. In 1990, the Messinger name has been removed and the church is known as Arndt Church. An addition has recently been put on it.

The ninth child of Michael and Catharina Abel Messinger, Abraham, was born about 1764. Abraham was a farmer, a cooper, and a millwright. He married Catherine ---, who is named in his will, but her maiden name is not remembered. She was of Pennsylvania German ancestry, and it is said of her that after moving to Indiana, she used to gather her grandchildren around her, and teach them German.

Abraham Messinger served in the Revolution in the First Company of the Second Battalion of Militia in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, commanded by Col. Roup, Capt. Jacob Russ, and Lieut. Jacob Arndt, Jr., in 1782. His six brothers also served in the same regiment of the Northampton County Militia.

Sometime during the fall of 1782, but before December 10, 1786, Abraham moved to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and settled along the Monongahela River. In that day this was spoken of as "going west." They lived here for more than forty years, but by some error, his name has been omitted from the U.S. Census. In their old age, about the year 1832, he and his wife removed to Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana, near what is now the town of Acton. Their son, John Hill Messinger and their three married daughters and their families, had been here since 1822. He purchased from the U.S. Government the East half of the S.W. Quarter of Section 15, Township 14 North, Range 5 East, eighty acres, on September 4, 1832.

Abraham's son, John Hill Messinger, having advanced his father certain sums of money, was to receive his father's land in Franklin Township upon Abraham's death.

On or about the 2nd day of September 1834, the said Abraham Messinger had executed and delivered to his son, John Hill Messinger, a covenant in writing by which he bound himself to give his son "all articles of personal property in an attached list, in consideration that this son, John Hill Messinger, would attend to the said Abraham's affairs and business for him and his wife, Catherine Messinger, in sickness and in health, find them in meat, drink, lodging, firewood and clothing necessary for their comfort in summer and in winter, and give them friendly support in their state and condition, together with all necessary expenses, after their death, give them a decent burial, with decent palings around their graves. Said articles of personal property are as follows, to wit: one yoke of oxen and chain, one rifle gun, that pouch and powder horn, all his, the said Abraham's, Cooper and Mill-wright tools, one cow, one yearling, one calf, one sow, four shoats, one bench and screw, one ax, the said Abraham's household and kitchen furniture, all his iron and stone tools, all hay and corn due Abraham for rent or otherwise, all debts standing not then paid, one hoe, one shovel, one mattox, one clock. All

the said Abraham's growing fruit trees in the nursery, the timber wagon and all the labor done for or at the Mill on Buck Creek."

Abraham Messinger died intestate on or about the last day of September 1834. The estate was settled November 15, 1839.

Abraham and Catharine Messinger are buried in the old Parsley Graveyard near Acton, Indiana. Catherine's death date is unknown, but she was living at the time of Abraham's death. No trace of the graves can be found.

Abraham and Catherine Messinger had three sons and three daughters. all born when they were living near the Monongahela River in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. They are:

1: Elizabeth Messinger
born December 10, 1786
married 1807 Allegheny Co.
to Robert Brown
died April 20, 1867 Marion Co., Ind.

2: John Hill Messinger
born 1789
married ca 1806, wife's name not remembered
2nd ca 1817
to Mary Martha Magdalena Miller
died July 4, 1859 Bremer County, Iowa

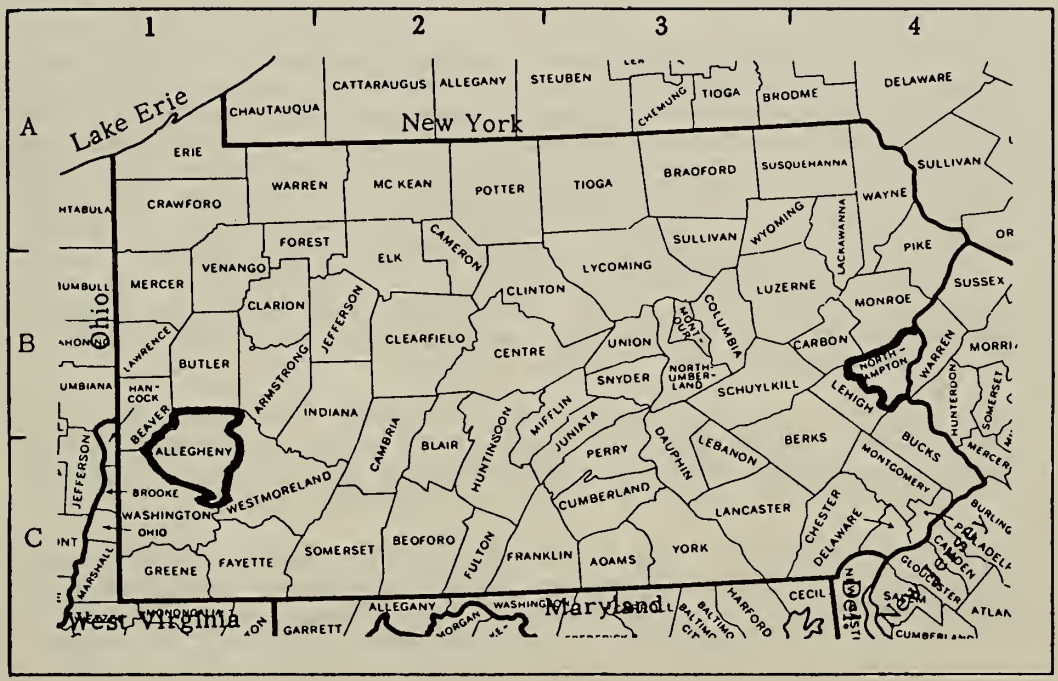
3: a son

4: Peter Messinger
birth date unknown
married Mahala ---
died June 18, 1865 Nashville, Tenn.

5: Barbara Messinger
birthdate unknown
married Samuel Searight
died probably Indiana

6: Catharine Messinger
birthdate unknown
married John Miller
died probably Indiana

Pennsylvania Map showing Northampton and Allegheny Counties.



John Hill Messinger, the second child of Abraham and Catharine Messinger, was born in 1789 in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. He was a farmer and a millwright and served in the War of 1812. Five or six years after his service in the War of 1812, he married a woman whose name is not remembered. They had three sons, John, George and Peter, who, after they had grown to manhood, moved to Illinois where they spent the remainder of their lives and nothing further is known.

John Hill Messinger married secondly, probably in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, about 1817, Mary Martha Magdalena Miller who was ten or eleven years younger than he. Mary Miller was born August 14, 1800, the daughter of Jacob and Abigail Miller. Jacob Miller was born about 1760, his wife about 1770. The Millers lived in Beaver County, Pennsylvania and Dearborn County, Indiana before removing to Marion County, Indiana. Jacob and Abigail Miller had a family of ten children. Jacob Miller died in March of 1827. Abigail then married George Fisher in 1838 in Marion County, Indiana. Mary Martha Miller and her brother, John, married Messinger brother and sister.

Mary Martha was of Pennsylvania German ancestry and was twelve years old when she learned to speak English. As an adult there was no trace of accent in her speech. She was of medium hieght and had dark hair and dark eyes.

John Hill Messinger was short of stature, had blue eyes, and curly yellow hair. He spoke German until he was fourteen. He enlisted as a private in Captain George Handel's Volunteer Rifle Company, First Brigade, Seventh Division, Pennsylvania Militia, called into service under the command of Col. James Fenton, Cumberland and Franklin Counties. After his service in the War of 1812, he removed to Butler County, Ohio, within a few miles of the settlement of Hamilton. He resided in Butler County three or four years, then removed to Decatur County,Indiana.

In the fall of 1822 John Messinger moved his family to Indianapolis, a small settlement of a few log huts, in Marion County, Indiana. His sister and brother-in-law, Robert Brown, went at the same time. In 1829 John Messinger bought land and built a mill known as Messinger Mill on the bank of Buck Creek, about half way between Acton and Pleasant View. It was principally a grist mill, but had also a saw mill attachment. Usually there was not enough water in Buck Creek to do a great deal of business. For twenty-one years John and Mary lived near the town of Acton. John was township assessor from May 5, 1835 until January 4, 1836.

John Hill Messinger and his wife had ten children. The two older ones were born in Butler County, Ohio and Dearborn County, Indiana. The others were born in Franklin Township, Marion County, Indiana.

1: Amos L. Messinger
born 1818 Butler Co., Ohio

2: Elias Jackson Messinger
born February 7, 1820 Dearborn Co., Ind.
married Catherine Perkins
died December 26, 1889 Waterloo, Iowa

3: Lucinda Messinger
born November 3, 1822 Marion Co., Ind.
married H.B. Boyd
died probably Dumont, Butler Co., Iowa

4: Mary Ann Messinger
born November 6, 1825 Marion Co., Ind.
married Wesley Tibbetts
2nd --- Jarvis

5: Catharine Messinger
born January 3, 1827 Marion Co., Ind.
nothing further known

6: Cynthia Messinger
born February 6, 1829 Marion Co., Ind.
married September 7, 1848 Independence, Iowa.
to Charles McCaffree
died January 28, 1898 Waverly, Iowa
buried Denver, Iowa

7: John Franklin Messinger
born March 8, 1831 Marion Co., Ind.
married Pheobe Tibbetts
November 6, 1906 Waterloo, Iowa

8: Robert Perry Messinger
born January 1, 1836 Marion Co., Ind.
married January 2, 1855 Bremer Co., Ia.
to Sarah Michael

9: Henry Maurice Collins Messinger
born October 22, 1837 Marion Co., Ind.
married August 1855
Mary Buckmaster
2nd to Catherine Tibbetts
died probably Oregon

10: Margaret Caroline Messinger
born March 30, 1841 Marion Co., Ind.
married September 6, 1860 Bremer Co., Iowa
to Isaac Connor
died March 5, 1878 Bremer Co., Iowa

In 1845 John Hill Messinger was fifty-six years old. He sold his property at Acton, Indiana and they headed west again.

In the "History of Bremer County, Iowa" it is written: "Early in the spring of 1846 a party came from Marion County, Indiana to Bremer County. These were John H. Messinger with a large family of girls and boys, George Tibbetts with a like family, Elias J. Messinger (son of John H.), Joseph Carberry, Tolliver Fisher, and Phillip Miller. They had all come with ox teams, spending a number of weeks in the journey." In fact, the Messingers had wintered four months in Linn County, Iowa waiting for spring. Two of John H. Messinger's sons-in-law were in the party, Wesley and Henry Tibbetts. John Messinger took land in Section 36, Jefferson Township, Bremer County, on the edge of the Big Woods. (See map on page 45 for Messinger pioneer home.)

The John Messingers were members of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania. As the Methodist Circuit Riders went into Indiana, the John Messinger family became followers of this faith. Hence, the first religious service in Bremer County was held at the Messinger home in the winter of 1846-47 by Rev. Collins, a Methodist Episcopal minister. In the first township election John Messinger was appointed as one of the judges. He was also the first post master of Bremer County at Neutral, where he was paid for being post master.

John Messinger's wife, Mary, was known to all in the community as "Grandmother Messinger". She was a good nurse and in a new country where there were no doctors, she gave her time and strength freely whenever needed. She would ride her white pony on her way to a sickness, or when a new baby was expected.

At the time of John Messinger's death July 4, 1859, he had lived in Bremer County fifteen years. All of his children lived nearby on surrounding farms, and he had many descendants. After her husband died, Mary continued to live in the Messinger homestead which she shared with her son, Robert Perry Messinger. She lived twelve years after her husband died, until June 1, 1871. They are both buried in the cemetery south of Denver, Iowa in Section 25 of Jefferson Township. In the same cemetery lie their daughter and son-in-law, Cynthia and Charles McCaffree.

Of John H. and Mary Miller Messinger's five sons and five daughters, we will follow the sixth child, Cynthia. Cynthia Messinger was born February 6, 1829 in Marion County, Indiana.

Cynthia was sixteen years old when she arrived with her family in Bremer County. Charles McCaffree had arrived in the county the previous spring, 1845, Charles being twenty-nine years old. On September 7, 1848 Charles and Cynthia drove thirty miles across prairies, fording creeks and rivers to Independence to be married, the closest place a marriage could be performed.

For eight years they were in Jackson Township, Bremer County, where their sons, William Hardin and Floyd Jefferson were born. They moved to Spring Creek in Black Hawk County, just a few miles south, where Mary Caroline was born. They returned to Bremer County, Iowa for one year, then they removed to Putnam County, Missouri where Hanna Retta Ann was born March 9, 1855. Laura Alena was born when they lived in Sullivan County, Missouri, as was John Wesley in 1859. For nine years they were in Missouri. When the Civil War was imminent, Charles and Cynthia returned north. On Easter Sunday, April 20, 1862 Lestina Amelia was born to them on the farm near Janesville, Iowa. Three more sons were born to them here, Lewis Alpheus, Owen Orby, and Cyrus Elbert. Floyd moved to Nebraska and raised his family, Laura married Thomas Auner and lived in Kansas, and Lewis and his wife raised their family in Kansas. With Cyrus in northern Iowa at Lake Mills, the rest stayed in the Bremer, Butler, Black Hawk County area.

Charles McCaffree died March 21, 1871, only fifty-five years old. In the 1880 census Cynthia has seven children at home, ages twenty-four to ten years old. Cynthia made her home in Waverly and died January 28, 1898, within a week of her 69th birthday.

Charles and Cynthia Messinger McCaffree are buried at Jefferson Cemetery south of Denver, Iowa in the same cemetery as her parents, John H. and Mary Miller Messinger.

The children of Cynthia Messinger McCaffree and Charles McCaffree are:

1: William Hardin McCaffree
born June 11, 1849 Janesville, Iowa
married January 5, 1870
to Louisa R. Sailor
died April 30, 1920 Waverly Junction, Iowa

2: Floyd Jefferson McCaffree
born February 7, 1851 Janesville, Iowa
married April 8, 1873
to Rachel E. Stratton
died December 28, 1937 Scottsbluff, Nebraska

3: Mary Caroline McCaffree
born November 28, 1852 Black Hawk Co., Iowa
married October 10, 1881
to R. Winfield Cuffel
died March 20, 1934 Waverly, Iowa
buried Lake Mills, Winnegabo Co., Iowa

4: Hanna Retta Ann McCaffree
born March 9, 1855 Putnam Co., Missouri
married July 14, 1875
to John Morris Dewey
died July 2, 1925 Janesville, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

5: Laura Alena McCaffree
born April 26, 1857 Sullivan Co., Missouri
married January 29, 1881
to Thomas J. Auner
died May 18, 1924 Winfield, Kansas

6: John Wesley McCaffree
born August 17, 1859 Sullivan Co., Missouri
married October 13, 1880 Waverly, Iowa
to Ann Elizabeth Sailor
died June 18, 1938 Cedar Falls, Iowa

7: Lestina Amelia McCaffree
born April 20, 1862 Janesville, Iowa
married November 26, 1886
to Edward S. Sewell
died September 4, 1947 Oelwein, Iowa
buried Janesville, Iowa

8: Lewis Alpheus McCaffree
born April 14, 1864 Janesville, Iowa
married September 25, 1892 Cherokee, Iowa
to Esther Patton
died March 18, 1939 Nickerson, Kansas

9: Owen Orby McCaffree
born September 7, 1867 Janesville, Iowa
married September 14, 1898
to Katherine V. Stockwell
died November 13, 1938 Newton, Iowa

MESSINGER Fifth Generation

10: Cyrus Elbert McCaffree
born February 1, 1869 Waverly Junction, Iowa
married December 23, 1891
to Janie Rebecca Price
died August 15, 1948 Lake Mills, Iowa

The seventh child of Charles and Cynthia Messinger McCaffree, Lestina Amelia McCaffree, was born April 20, 1862 near Janesville, Iowa. She taught school until her marriage to Edward S. Sewell on November 26, 1886. They lived on a farm in the Janesville, Iowa area, except for a period of time in Missouri. They had nine children, seven of whom reached adulthood. They divorced in 1930. Lestina died September 4, 1947 at Oelwein, Iowa and is buried at the Janesville, Cemetery. (More detail about Lestina in the McCaffree chapter.)

Children of Edward S. and Lestina McCaffree Sewell.

1: Lee Sewell born Sept. 18, 1887 Janesville, Iowa
died August 23, 1888 Janesville, Iowa

2: Lena Sewell born August 20, 1888 Janesville, Iowa
married November 25, 1908 Janesville, Iowa
to Warren W. Wright
died October 18, 1977 Waterloo, Iowa
buried Jesup, Iowa

3: Ila Sewell born July 17, 1890 Janesville, Iowa
married December 23, 1914 Janesville, Iowa
to Earl C. Gibson
died April 5, 1973 Sand Point, Idaho

4: Eva Sewell born January 4, 1892 Janesville, Iowa
married March 15, 1917 Janesville, Iowa
to Halbert Janes Loveland
died April 18, 1988 Tacoma, Washington

5: Orrin Sewell born February 9, 1896 Dade County, Mo.
married September 2, 1917 Janesville, Iowa
to Mary D. Whitney
died October 31, 1986 Bemidji, Minn.
buried Maynard, Iowa

6: Blanche Sewell born February 22, 1898 Dade County, Mo.
married November 29, 1917 Waterloo, Iowa
to Clive C. Whitney
died January 26, 1967 Tacoma, Washington
buried Gibsonia, Penna.

7: Hilda Sewell born February 21, 1900 Janesville, Iowa
died August 31, 1905 Janesville, Iowa

8: Ora Sewell born February 20, 1902 Janesville, Iowa
married June 1, 1924 Cedar Falls, Iowa
to Evelyn Ruth Kimball
died December 5, 1985 Waverly, Iowa
buried Shell Rock, Iowa

9: Violet Sewell born April 7, 1904 Janesville, Iowa
married September 27, 1930 Nashua, Iowa
to Reinhold S. Mack
died October 28, 1980 West Union, Iowa
buried Fayette, Iowa

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